

LIDAY HOME

LIDAYS

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ON SUMMER

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Imported cars take record 46% of British market

Imported cars took a record 46 per cent of the British market last month. During the first 11 months of 1976 car imports totalled £802m, but despite this the British motor industry achieved a balance of payments surplus of £1,476m.

Motor exports give payments surplus

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that some parents were allowing their young children to watch too much television.

Speaking at the North of England Education Conference at Middlesbrough, she said that the harmful influence of television on children's reading and writing abilities had been underrated.

At the same time she blamed parents for not giving teachers the support they were entitled to. "Parents cannot demand discipline from the schools if they do not insist upon it themselves," she said.

"All of us know parents who seem unconcerned about how much television their young children watch or even where their older children are."

Parents allowing too much television, Mrs Williams says

Earlier Professor Richard Whitfield, Professor of Education at Aston University, Birmingham, had said that children aged 10 in England and Scotland were watching on average three and a half hours of television a day.

Mrs Williams said she was disturbed by the results of Professor Whitfield's research. Television was taking away the spare time that children had for reading books, which contributed an important part to their achievements at reading and spelling.

"We are now living in a visual rather than a verbal culture and this aspect has not been looked at," she said. She hoped that television would be given a more verbal content and steps would be taken to make the medium more educational. Programmes like *Sesame Street* had shown that the medium could improve children's performance at school.

She gave a warning that some old and not so old primary and secondary schools, particularly in towns, would have to be closed in the next few years out of economic necessity because of falling pupil numbers.

She indicated that local authorities who had not yet reorganized their secondary schools would be pressed to adopt sixth-form college systems.

The "all-through" 11-18 comprehensive (favoured by the Labour Government during the 1960s) was not always large enough to produce viable sixth forms. The sixth form or tertiary college was the tidest and most economic solution.

The declining birth rate would mean that there would be 700,000 fewer pupils than at present in primary schools by 1981. Although the numbers at secondary schools would have increased by 110,000, the decline there would have started from the peak reached in 1979.

The first consequence of that decline was visible in the half-empty classrooms at infant schools in many new towns and on big local authority estates.

She was against early specialization in subjects at schools which often entailed children abandoning either science or the arts even before reaching adolescence.

Britain had prided itself in the past on the decentralizing characteristics of its education system. But the country had failed to take into account that people were much more mobile now than a generation ago.

Children moving from one school to another in different parts of the country were becoming confused by switches to different methods of learning and different forms of school organization. That was particularly true in mathematics.

"We need to know much more about the benefits children get from modern mathematics, compared with traditional mathematics, and about the ability of teachers, many with only the most elementary knowledge of mathematics, to handle these approaches, and the best way of bridging the gap when a child moves from a school using one method to a school using another."

There had not been a measurable fall in educational standards despite reorganization and expansion, she said. Evidence shortly to be published by her department would show that reading standards among children had improved over the past ten years.

Mars signal confirms Einstein's theory

From John Noble Wilford
New York, Jan 7

The most accurate long-distance measurements ever made, by means of radio signals between the Viking spacecraft on Mars and antennae on earth, have produced new confirmation of Einstein's theory of relativity, a Viking project scientist reported yesterday.

The measurement was so precise, according to Dr Irwin Shapiro, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, that the uncertainty over a span of 200 million miles was less than 5ft—that is, an accuracy of five parts in 10 million millions.

Dr Shapiro and his colleagues on the Viking radio science team went to such pains to see if, as Einstein predicted, the Sun's gravitational force bends and delays radio signals (or any form of radiation) as they travel particularly close to it.

It did, Dr Shapiro believes, after further analysis, the Viking experiment will show that the delay in the travel time of the radio waves caused by the Sun's gravity was close to calculations (a delay of 200 millionths of a second) based on Einstein's theory.

Results of the experiment were reported at a press conference at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. The Viking 1 and 2 spacecraft are being controlled there.

The experiment was conducted on November 25 at the time of solar conjunction. At that time, Mars moved behind the Sun in relation to Earth, causing a total blackout of communications between the Vikings and Earth.

But just before and after the blackout, radio signals were transmitted from antennae at Goldstone, California and Canberra, to both of the Viking orbiters and landers, and then from the spacecraft back to Earth. The round-trip travel times of the signals were carefully clocked.

The results, Dr Shapiro said, were in agreement with the theory of general relativity. Not that he expected to prove Einstein wrong. Previous tests using spacecraft communications systems tended to confirm the theory, but the Viking test is considered twice as accurate, or more, than the previous ones.

In a telephone interview after the conference, Dr Shapiro said: "I would have been very surprised if Einstein was wrong. But one just cannot take theories for granted. Physics is an experimental science, and nature, Einstein came along to explain deviations in Newton's theory of gravity. And at some level of probing we may find Einstein's theory will break down and no longer be a totally adequate theory of the way nature behaves."

Dr Donald Anderson, of the California Institute of Technology, the leader of the Viking radio science team, said that the Viking 2 leader's seismometer detected an unusual event in mid-November. It was a seismic tremor, it would be the first tremor on Mars recorded by man-made instruments. It must have occurred about 4,000 miles from the landing site and been of a magnitude of six or more on the Richter scale.—New York Times News Service.

Ministers to discuss pit peace terms

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Senior Cabinet ministers are to meet leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers on Monday to discuss terms for settling the coal industry's retirement dispute. Attending the talks at the Department of Energy will be Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and a minister from the Treasury.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, will be present with national officials of the union.

The discussions will be followed by a crucial session between the coal board, miners' leaders and the TUC economic committee two days later. As the dispute over the miners' demand to retire at 60 moved towards a conclusion yesterday, leaders of the 19,000 members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shottifiers pursued their demand to quit the pits before state retirement age. They agreed to delay further negotiations until the conclusion of the miners' talks.

At Monday's conference the miners' union is expected to repeat its proposal that the Government should foot at least part of the bill for introducing early retirement. Mr Benn has said the coal board, that state cash is not available.

After two days of negotiations the coal board has conceded that miners' wages should be allowed to rise early.

The main elements of the draft agreement are: early retirement to be voluntary for one year, when there will be a review; payment of "wages" similar to the scheme for redundant miners, together with a lump sum of £500; qualifying service of 20 years; early retirement for men aged 62 to start from this August, reducing to 61 in 1978 and 60 in 1979; concessionary coal to be provided; miners who start work underground but are later forced to move to the surface will not be penalized.

That formula has to be accepted by TUC approval, and there is almost certain to be strong criticism of "special case" treatment being given to the miners once again.

One serious snag still lies ahead. The miners' national executive has voted by 13 to 12 to continue negotiations on the basis of the draft agreement, but the coal board insists that early retirement can be given only to men with 20 years' service underground, while the miners' union wants to include surface workers, some of whom have never worked underground.



Rebellious whites: A group of 17 Rhodesian whites stage a token demonstration in Salisbury in favour of British proposals for a resident British Commissioner during the period of interim government prior to majority rule. Although yesterday's march through the city centre was illegal, the police ignored it. Mr Ken Mew, principal of Rancho House College, a private multi-racial adult education centre, who led the demonstrators, said that Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, had no right to reject the British proposals without consulting the rest of the whites in the country. Mr Mew (holding centre placard) said more demonstrations were planned, and when asked why only 17 whites, most of them women took part, he said: "This is typical of the brainwashing that has taken place over the last 14 years. The whites by and large do not understand the seriousness of the situation."

Arrests follow publication of Czech dissidents' manifesto

From Dan van der Vat
Brno, Jan 7

The Czechoslovak authorities reacted swiftly but predictably today, with arrests and a broadside in the Communist Party press, to the publication in Western of a protest manifesto signed by 240 dissident intellectuals.

Four of the signatories of the manifesto, which heralded the birth of a new campaign for the restoration of human rights, were detained by the state security service at their homes in Prague this morning. They are Mr Ludvik Vaculik, a writer, Mr Pavel Landovsky, an actor, Mr Zdenek Urbánek, a writer and critic, and Mr Václav Havel, also a writer. All three were searched.

The first three were released later after several hours of questioning. So was Mr Havel, but he alone was re-arrested almost immediately and subjected to further questioning.

Mr Havel is named at the end of the manifesto as one of three spokesmen of the "Charter 77" association which produced it. A Czechoslovak source told me today that none of the four detained was a communist.

The principal organ of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, *Rude Pravo*, carried an unmistakable threat to opponents of the regime in this morning's edition. This is seen by observers as a response to the publication of details of the manifesto in several leading Western newspapers, including *The Times*.

"Anyone who wants to put up obstacles in our people's path to socialism and wants to infringe the laws of the socialist state must expect consequences," it said.

The speed of the authorities' reaction clearly caught the dissidents by surprise, but can be attributed to a tactical error on their part. Among the Western newspapers given a copy of the manifesto were at least two evening papers. The editions carrying the details were already on sale yesterday evening, giving the secret police the entire night to prepare counter-measures.

This probably accounts for the fact that plans by the dissidents to publicize the manifesto in Prague itself this morning went awry. A planned press conference, for example, was not held.

Attempts to reach some of the signatories by telephone today were mostly unsuccessful.

The manifesto condemns infringements of human rights in Czechoslovakia, claims opponents of the regime are subjected to "applied" and announces the creation of the "Charter 77" association to campaign for civil rights.

Kurd rebels kidnap five Poles

By Edward Mortimer

Five Polish engineers and surveyors are being held hostage by Kurdish guerrillas in northeast Iraq, according to Kurdish sources in London.

The sources, representing the "provisional leadership" of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, were unable to name the hostages, kidnapped in mid-December near Mosul, close to the Iranian frontier, but they were positive about the accuracy of their information.

According to this, six Polish experts were originally captured, but one of them was released and sent as a messenger with the guerrillas' conditions for the release of his colleagues. They demand that Kurds deported from their homes since the collapse of General Barzani's Kurdish revolt in March, 1975, should be allowed to return under international supervision.

British Airways flights cut by loaders' strike

British Airways lost an estimated £1,700,000 yesterday because of a strike by 600 loaders at Heathrow Airport. The airline said 23 overseas division flights had been cancelled, affecting about 5,000 passengers.

"We are trying to arrange that passengers will be given an alternative flight with another airline," a spokesman said.

The loaders walked out in support of a demand for an extra £1.16 a week to bring their wages into line with colleagues in the European division of British Airways. At a mass meeting, 23 union officials' advice to return to work and voted to stay out until after the weekend.

The European division loaders got the extra payment for working on winter holiday jets, and overseas staff are claiming parity because they now handle bigger aircraft.

Takeover dispute settled, says Mr Murdoch

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 7

A settlement was reached today in the disputed takeover by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, of the New York Magazine Company, according to members of Mr Murdoch's staff. No details were given immediately, but the settlement was described as an amicable one between Mr Murdoch and Mr Clay Felker, the company's president.

Mr Felker had been the most outspoken opponent of the takeover, and he was backed by the staffs of the three magazines published by the company, *New York*, *The Village Voice*, and *New West*. But he agreed to go into negotiations with Mr Murdoch in spite of appeals from his staff not to do so.

Last night, before the agreement had been reached, Mr Felker had rolled up his sleeves, and with the help of associates completed work on next week's issue of *New York*.

He thus defeated the main aim of the magazine's staff, who walked out in a body yesterday in order to prevent the issue coming out.

Mr Felker was helped by some directors of the company and by a number of friends. They are reported to have worked until 7 am. The material was then flown to Buffalo for printing.

This all-night operation was ironic, because the staff had walked out in support of Mr Felker's battle to prevent the takeover.

But Mr Felker is very much his own man and *New York* is to a great extent his creation. The magazine would have suffered heavy losses if it had not come out next week, and when the staff walked out at midday yesterday Mr Felker appealed to them to return to work.

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All-night bargaining on EEC jobs

Roy Jenkins began his tenure of presidency of the European Commission with a tough 15-hour bargaining session on the share-out of portfolios. He said afterwards it was a "useful prism". When the negotiations ended 5.30 am yesterday, it was learnt that Sir Haferkamp had gained the veto external affairs portfolio, but one of the job's previous powers were even to other commissioners. But most was spent on allocating less important posts.

Minimum lending rate cut to 14pc

The Bank of England yesterday reduced the minimum lending rate by a quarter percentage point to 14 per cent. The fall is generally seen as the latest in a series of downward steps that will continue for some time.

University 'spies'

Scores of foreign students are under surveillance from their countries' spy networks in British universities, the National Union of Students said. At a conference in York the union called for a detailed report on the operations of agencies in universities, said to include the KGB, CIA, SAVAK (Iran) and BOSS (South Africa).

Peers criticize EEC directive

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities criticized changes in the labelling, presentation and handling of foodstuffs proposed in an EEC draft directive. It has also endorsed complaints about the unsatisfactory nature of the EEC Commission's procedures for consultation.

Carrillo war record

The democratic hero Señor Carrillo, the communist leader, is now wearing a tarnished by his role in the Spanish civil war and his responsibility for mass executions, which earned him the nickname of the "Assassin of Paracuellos".

Invalid care ruling

A national insurance commissioner has upheld the Government's argument that regulations on invalid care allowance exclude married women caring for their husbands, on the assumption that a married woman would not usually work and therefore would not lose wages or rights to national insurance benefit.

Gas explosion in hospital oven

A man was injured and 12 patients were evacuated after a gas explosion in an oven at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. In Newark, Nottinghamshire, a café was demolished but gas board fire officials disputed the cause.

Meriden talks

Harold Lever is to discuss the Government's refusal of a further £1m support for the Meriden motor cycle operative with Mr Jack Jones and Geoffrey Robinson, MP, on Monday.

83-day trial ends

A property dealer who tried to defraud insurance companies of more than £300,000 by bogus fire insurance claims was jailed for seven years at the end of an 83-day trial estimated to have cost £750,000.

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HOME NEWS

EEC directive on food labelling changes criticized by House of Lords select committee

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Big changes in the labelling and presentation of foodstuffs proposed in an EEC directive have been criticized by the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities in a report published yesterday.

Although the commission's proposals have the same objectives as the United Kingdom's own food labelling regulations, there are details in the EEC directive that the committee thinks reflect a completely different approach on some issues affecting the consumer.

These details affect the entire United Kingdom food trade—manufacturers, importers and retailers—as well as consumers and enforcement authorities, the report says.

Two main differences involved the commission's inclusion of the requirements to give on the label a minimum durability date, and a drained net weight for solid food sold in a liquid medium. But there were other important differences which need more detailed examination before they could be accepted.

The committee endorsed complaints made by representatives of the multiple retail trade about the unsatisfactory nature of the EEC Commission's consultation procedures. "There

was a feeling that the staff of the commission... were unwilling to take account of commercial and practical problems which the proposals raised," it says.

"We note that on occasion, commission proposals that were subjected to criticism at the *avant-projet* stage (ie, before publication) are reissued without amendment with no explanation why representations made at an earlier stage were not accepted."

The Committee says it was led to doubt whether there had been any genuine effort to reach practical solutions, as occurred when the United Kingdom Government was discussing its proposals for the Labelling of Food Regulations, 1970.

"We appreciate the natural desire of the commission to change its consultation procedures through European-wide organizations, but we wish to stress the importance of real, rather than formal, consultation with effective interests," it adds.

In the eyes of many of the trade associations giving evidence to the Lords Committee, the commission was attempting to cover too much legislative ground by including both general and specific provisions in one directive. "It was a strongly held view... that the commission should have con-

ferred itself to a statement of general principles, with detailed regulations to follow later."

The main proposals include those that the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs should not be such as to mislead the purchaser about their nature, composition or quantity, and that on the label should be included "the name of the product, a list of ingredients, the net quantity, the date of minimum durability, name and address of the manufacturer, packer or seller," and in some instances the origin of the product and instructions for its use.

One exception is that "for non-prepackaged foodstuffs member states may apply national rules which need not correspond precisely with those in the proposal so long as consumers receive sufficient information."

The committee felt that if the commission attempted to cover all foods and drink, "from whisky to milk, from baked beans to sliced luncheon meat," provision must be made for exceptions where necessary.

Fears were expressed that the directive would impose a heavy cost on the food industry.

Sixty-second Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities (Labelling of Foodstuffs) (1976) (Stationery Office, £1.35p).



Renewing old ties: Miss Ivy Baker, aged 74, a former telephone operator who connected the first commercial telephone call between London and New York, talked to the United States again yesterday to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the service. At a ceremony in Wren House, the telephone exchange by St Paul's Cathedral, Miss Baker, of Thornton Heath, London, renewed acquaintance with Miss Rosa De Palma, now 75, who handled the first call from New York to London. On that first day 31 calls were made to Britain. Now nine million are made every year.

Deaths and bombings mark first week of year in Ulster

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

For the war-weary citizens of Northern Ireland the first week of 1977 has offered no prospect of relief from the troubles which are entering its eighth year. There is growing resentment locally at the failure of the authorities to stop the violence.

In the heavily guarded centre of Belfast the week ended as it had begun, violently, when a 10lb bomb exploded in a Wimpsey Bar which minutes earlier had been crowded with bargain-hunters taking a rest from shopping at the sales.

The explosion was the thirteenth recorded by the Army since the new year began, and by last night eight further bombs of different types had been defused. The Provisional IRA has pledged to intensify its campaign and the rate of bombings indicates that the ex-bombing is not a lull but a continuation of the violence.

Volunteer Force has officially returned to the scene after a year's so-called ceasefire.

During the week two more people died: a child aged 15 months who was killed by a car bomb in north Belfast, and a young British soldier, Lance-

Bill may not improve lot of single homeless

By Peter Godfrey
Legislation being prepared to help homeless families is likely to overlook a group that has consistently fallen outside the social services net, the single homeless.

The Housing (Homeless Persons) Bill, a private member's Bill introduced by Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, comes up for second reading in the new parliament session, but Mr Ross conceded last night that the Bill, designed to transfer responsibility for accommodating the homeless from social services to housing departments, will give local authorities "a let-out clause" on housing single people.

"They can refuse either because they have not got any accommodation available, or if they feel that applicants are not telling the complete truth about their background," he said.

Because he had taken over with government support, a draft Bill prepared by the Department of the Environment, his hands were tied; he could not increase its impact beyond providing shelter for such priority cases as homeless families, pregnant women and the old.

That being so, an estimated 100,000 single homeless people will remain in their traditional no-man's land, housed for the most part in a dwindling number of common lodging houses.

The Campaign for the Homeless and Roorless is also sceptical about the Bill improving their lot. "It follows the approach which we think it will, it will exclude the great majority of single homeless people," Mr Nicholas Beacock, the campaign's director, said.

The difficulties of the single homeless are highlighted in individual case histories being gathered for publication by a Consortium, a voluntary organization based in south London.

Miss Christine Holloway, its executive director, said: "We feel this is necessary because they are a mass of people whom nobody notices, and for whom local authorities bear no responsibility."

One man told how his troubles had begun with a conviction for a petty offence. After the hearing, I was given a rig of clothes and sent to a hospital for the subnormal. I was there 17 years. After I got out I had a nervous breakdown in the middle of nowhere in London for lack of food and work.

"I have been looking around for work, but everywhere I go the labour exchange seems to think I am disabled, through the mental background. They will not register you for certain work if you are staying at a hostel. When you give your address as a hostel they ignore you."

Shetland unhappy over 'rule by Edinburgh'

From John Chartres
Newcastle upon Tyne

The Shetland Islands might have to look for an alternative form of government, possibly on the Isle of Man pattern, if satisfactory amendments were not made to the devolution Bill, it was stated at a conference in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday.

Mr James Jamieson, deputy convener of the Shetland Islands Council, told an anti-devolution conference called by Tyne and Wear County Council that the Shetlanders, who have a main interest in North Sea oil exploitation, were happy to remain part of Britain but viewed government from Edinburgh with "some foreboding."

Representatives of the Manx government and from the Faroe Islands have been in the Shetlands this week explaining their systems of virtually autonomous government while retaining overall allegiance to Britain and Denmark. The Shetland Islands Council has set up a group to examine the possibility of avoiding involvement in devolution for Scotland.

Mr Jamieson explained how the dowry handover of the Shetland Islands to Scotland in the fifteenth century, with the consequent introduction of rapacious feudal law, had led to his people regarding themselves as Shetlanders rather than Scots.

"We do not wish to be involved in a question of devolu-

tion for Scotland, since we feel that such a transfer is for the people of Scotland to decide," he said. "We, however, see no advantage to Shetland in such devolution and would like to avoid its application to Shetland. It is worth noting that the Orkney holds similar views."

The island's council would like to maintain the status quo but since the devolution Bill made that impossible, Shetland must look for amendments to the Bill or for some other form of government. Two examples came to mind, the Isle of Man in Britain, and the Faroe Islands in Denmark.

"To those who know the history of the isles, this is understandable," he said. "Shetland was settled by the Norse about the eighth century AD. It developed its own local government, the Ting in Tingwall, a similar system of local government was established in Orkney, the Western Isles and the Isle of Man. The Manx Parliament is the only one remaining."

Immediately before the coming of oil, Shetland had had unemployment. Now, many workers had to be imported to work on the oil rigs, the industrial base of Scotland had high unemployment.

"It is reasonable to expect that the assembly's chief concern must be the alleviation of unemployment in the industrial areas," he said. "What consideration is likely to be given to outlying areas?"

Patients evacuated after explosion in hospital

One man was injured and 12 patients were evacuated after an explosion at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital yesterday.

Scottish Gas said the explosion was not caused by a leaking gas main but was due to faulty ignition in a baker's oven. The equipment was not serviced by the board.

The explosion occurred shortly before daybreak in the backhouse in the north wing of Macdonald House at the hospital in Morrellside Place, Edinburgh. Mr James Forrest, the baker, of Greengate Farm, Edinburgh, lit an oven, and almost immediately there was an explosion.

The backhouse was damaged extensively but Mr Forrest received only minor injuries.

Because of the damage, 12 patients in an adjoining ward were removed, as a precautionary measure, to another part of the hospital.

Our Nottingham Correspondent writes: An explosion demolished a popular corner café in Newark early yesterday, only days before the town of workmen visited it to deal with

'Specialist' gang of clock thieves sought

By a Staff Reporter

A gang of thieves who specialise in stealing antique clocks from public buildings and offices in London and the Home Counties is being sought by police.

Some clocks, worth as much as £10,000, have disappeared recently in a series of thefts and the Clockmakers' Company has issued a warning to owners to tighten security.

Mr R. C. Pennefather, Clerk to the company, said yesterday: "A group of thieves, directed, it would appear, by one or more persons with horological knowledge, is systematically selecting and stealing from public buildings and from private owners, both in London and the Home Counties. The importance and value of the stolen clocks are of great value."

"It is believed that many, if not most, of the clocks are smuggled out of the country within hours of their removal, and once abroad there is little likelihood of their recovery."

Many of the stolen clocks were made during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when British clock-makers were highly regarded.

Sir Hugh Wommer, Master of the company, said: "We are losing part of our heritage as these thefts continue."

"We have had incidents where even grandfather clocks have been removed from buildings by thieves posing, probably, as workmen. Many bracket clocks have been taken in similar fashion, with people unscrewing them from the wall."

"Whoever is behind this wave of thefts obviously knows a lot about clocks and has an expert's eye."

Plight of those who lost everything in gas blast

By Penny Symon

The gas explosion that wrecked a parade of shops in Beckenham, Kent, on Monday already belongs to the past. A sympathetic public read newspaper reports of the blast having miraculously escaped, but tend to overlook the repercussions for those involved.

The Oskill Laundromat, the seat of the explosion, was completely destroyed. Mr John Lewis and his wife, Marjorie, had spent 15 years building up the business and also owned a dry-cleaning shop near by. Mr Lewis believes that those premises, which were badly damaged, might be allowed to remain standing, but is worried by the loss of most of his business.

He was insured against loss of profits, and expected that he would receive an interim payment. He now realises that he will not be able to make money coming in and, yesterday was

Property dealer jailed for seven years for £300,000 bogus fire insurance claims

From Our Correspondent
Norwich

Geoffrey Allen, aged 58, a property dealer, was yesterday jailed for seven years for trying to defraud insurance companies of more than £300,000 with bogus fire insurance claims. His conviction, with that of four other men, came at the end of a trial lasting 83 days and costing an estimated £750,000.

Judge MacKenna told Mr Allen at Norwich Crown Court: "Your villainy has at long last been exposed. Your conviction on the serious offences enables me to pass sentence which will give the public a measure of protection against a man who considers to be a very dangerous and dishonest person."

After a 52-hour retirement the jury convicted Mr Allen, of Fulham Market, Norfolk, on two charges: conspiring to defraud the Royal Insurance Company of £153,000 over a claim on a nineteenth-century disused mill-house, Brigsteed Mill, near North Walsham, Norfolk, which the prosecution said had been burnt down deliberately in 1975; and attempting to obtain by false pretences £150,000 from the County Fire Office over a claim on a country mansion, Shortgrove Hall, near Salton, Wiltshire, which was burnt down in June, 1966, shortly after Mr Allen had bought it.

Four men accused with Mr Allen of the Brigsteed Mill conspiracy were also sentenced. They were: Michael Howard, aged 37, of Windrush Road, Kesgrave, and Terence Robinson, aged 27, of Frampton Road, both Ipswich, both directors of a garage in Ipswich; Terence Stone, aged 36, a builder, of Orchard View, Shelfanger, near Diss, Norfolk; and Herbert Jarvis, aged 57, a riding school instructor and insurance assessor, of Stock Road, Stock, Essex.

Mr Howard, whom the prosecution described as the front man in the conspiracy, was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £7,000 towards the cost of the hearing.

Paul Root, aged 24, a company director, of Westfield Road, Ipswich, was cleared of conspiracy over Brigsteed Mill and sentenced to 18 months in prison. Mr Marian Knox-Tucker, aged 47, of the Doric Restaurant, Attleborough, was cleared of attempting to obtain money by false pretences over Shortgrove Hall.

£13,000 contest fraud

A man who was disgruntled about his job as an executive on a provincial newspaper group arranged for a woman to win a £13,000 prize and a new car in the paper's "Spot the ball" competition, it was stated for the prosecution at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

Kenneth Kito, aged 37, of Tudorville Road, Bebbington, Cheshire, pleaded guilty to attempting to obtain the money and the car by deception. He was given a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Mr Slater shared secret profit of £1m, court told

James Slater shared a secret profit of £1m from a share investment company, Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, London, was told yesterday.

About £200,000 was paid to the Bahamas and then passed to London for him through a company called Escher Investments, as was alleged in the prosecution.

The Singapore Government is seeking the extradition of Mr Slater, former chairman of Slater, Walker Securities, and Richard Telling who ended the company's activities in the Far East.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, counsel for the Singapore Government, told the court that Mr Telling also took about £200,000 from Spydar Securities, a Hong-kong-based share investment company. The money was sent to Jersey when the company was wound up in July, 1973, he said.

Cockle fishing may resume after poisoning scare

From Michael Horsnell
Leigh-on-Sea

Fishing boats that have remained in the water before Christmas after an outbreak of cockle poisoning are expected to put to sea again next week.

A five-point plan worked out by government and local health officials which would safeguard the quality of cockles was accepted yesterday by the seventy fishermen and processors at Leigh.

Billingsgate market, London, which handles 97 per cent of the catch, is expected to lift its ban on Leigh cockles and save the 200-year-old industry at Leigh. The fishermen, who are preparing to sterilize processing equipment to get the industry moving, refuse to accept responsibility for the poisoning outbreak, the first large one in Leigh since 1949.

The shutdown of the eight

Journalists plan local radio station strikes

Members of the National Union of Journalists working at BBC local radio stations are being told to hold short strikes from today to protest against a dispute at Radio Sheffield that has lasted three weeks.

The dispute is over the use of a green-grocer and a teacher to supply sport reports.

The emergency committee of the NUJ executive has instructed members working in BBC local radio to withdraw their labour with effect from Monday "on a station-by-station, short notice, short duration, basis."

The committee also instructed all BBC chapels (office branches) to hold mandatory meetings by next Friday to consider industrial action for the reinstatement of a union member at Radio Sheffield suspended for obeying a NUJ ban on handling sports reports.

Prospects for cut-price bread worsen

By Hugh Clayton

Prospects for cut-price bread worsened yesterday as a union official said that extra discounts offered to grocers by bakers were unacceptable.

Mr J. M. Case, north-west regional officer with the United Road Transport Union, said that extension of discounts beyond 22½p in the pound was "not on."

Bakers have replied to the Government's abandonment of its 22½p discount limit by offering a further 5p in the pound discount to shops.

Mr Case said union policy was to prevent standard loaves from being sold at more than 4p below the authorized ceiling, which is 21p in most of the country. Some shop stewards were limiting cuts to only 2p or 3p, Mr Case said. The union wanted them to adopt its 4p standard.

No pardon for crash helmet campaigner

A Sikh who went to prison as a protest against the compulsory wearing of crash helmets has been told by the Home Office that he cannot be pardoned. But he need not pay outstanding fines of £130.

Mr Baldev Singh Chahal, aged 38, a post office worker, of Narrows Lane, Downley, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was stopped 42 times for the offence. He was the leader

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars

Today
Sun rises: 8.4 am
Sun sets: 4.11 pm
Moon sets: 8.3 pm
Last quarter: January 12
Lighting up: 4.41 pm to 7.33 am
High Water: London Bridge, 3.22 am, 7.2m (23.6ft); 3.45 pm, 7.3m (24.0ft)
Low Water: London Bridge, 8.47 am, 13.1m (43.1ft); 9.15 pm, 13.1m (43.1ft)
Dover, 12.35 am, 6.7m (22.1ft)
Hull, 7.58 am, 7.0m (22.8ft); 3.44 pm, 7.2m (23.6ft)
Liverpool, 12.40 am, 9.0m (29.5ft); 12.53pm, 9.3m (30.4ft)

Tomorrow
Sun rises: 8.4 am
Sun sets: 4.12 pm
Moon sets: 9.37 am
Lighting up: 4.42 pm to 7.33 am
High Water: London Bridge, 3.57 am, 7.2m (23.7ft); 4.21 pm, 7.3m (24.0ft)
Low Water: London Bridge, 9.26 am, 13.1m (43.1ft); 9.55 pm, 13.0m (42.8ft)
Dover, 12.59 am, 6.7m (22.3ft)
Hull, 8.34 am, 7.0m (22.8ft); 3.23 pm, 7.2m (23.6ft)
Liverpool, 1.19 am, 8.9m (29.4ft); 1.30 pm, 9.2m (30.3ft)

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain or showers, bright intervals; wind W or NW, fresh or strong; max temp 5°C (41°F)

Outlook for tomorrow: rain or snow; night frost.

See page 2 for details of the Strait of Dover, Wind NW moderate or fresh, occasionally strong later; sea moderate, occasionally rough later.

English Channel (E1): Wind NW, light or moderate; sea slight to moderate.

St George's Channel: Wind NW moderate or fresh; sea slight to moderate.

Irish Sea: Wind NW, fresh, occasionally strong; sea moderate to rough.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max. 6 am to 1 pm, 9°C (48°F); min. 5 pm to 6 am, 0°C (32°F). Humidity, 1 pm, 80 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm 1,040.2 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Overseas selling prices
Australia, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Canada, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Denmark, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
France, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Germany, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Italy, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Japan, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Netherlands, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Norway, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Sweden, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
Switzerland, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d
USA, 100c 17s 10d, 100c 17s 10d

HOME NEWS

Foreign spies 'keeping watch on students at British universities'

From Our Correspondent

The National Union of Students is to investigate the activities of intelligence agents said to be operating in British universities. The union believes that scores of foreign students are under surveillance from their countries' spy networks.

Among the agencies accused of infiltrating universities are the KGB, CIA, SAVAK (the Iranian security organisation), and South Africa's Bureau of State Security (BOSS).

The allegations were made yesterday at a union conference at York University, at which delegates called for a detailed report on the agencies' university operations.

Mr Stephen Pearson, president of the students' union at Bradford, said that two students there had been exposed as SAVAK agents instructed to watch some of their 43 Iranian colleagues at the university.

"One agent was exposed by using the photographic society's equipment to take pictures of Iranian students involved in anti-Shah activities," he said. "We discovered the negative."

"There is no doubt that some Iranian students who are involved in political activity in this country are afraid of reprisals when they return home."

Pearson also referred to a party of 20 Russian students on a short-term exchange course at Bradford. He said they were constantly chaperoned by a "counter" and were subjected to restrictions on what literature they could read. They were watched closely outside

the university and in their contacts with people.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president of the union, said: "The investigation is aimed at rooting out the intelligence agents who have infiltrated campuses. We are not prepared to tolerate these activities."

"We believe many English universities have agents from various organisations operating within them. Files we have built up on various students substantiate this."

CIA accused: Allegations of "large-scale interference by the CIA and other intelligence agencies in student organisations are contained in an article to be published by the National Union of Students next month (Frances Gibb writes). The article, commissioned by the union for its newspaper, *National Student*, was written by Mr Phillip Kelly, a journalist at *Interpress*, a news agency.

Mr Francis Beckett, editor of *National Student*, said that intelligence agencies and in particular the CIA, had taken a close interest in student organisations over a long period. Much of the evidence contained in the article came from the union's files.

Mr David Aaronovitch, the union's vice-president in charge of services, said it was believed that former members of the union and others holding senior posts in the student movement had extensive contacts, albeit unwittingly, with British security agencies.

Iranian students at Leeds University had not registered an Iranian students' society in their own name through fear of reprisals from Iranian agents, he said.

Assault on pay disparities in engineering industry

By Christopher Thomas

An assault on pay disparities in the engineering industry is planned by the white-collar Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section (Tass) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers under the controversial schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act.

It will be the first important test of the schedule as a means of getting wages rises above the 4% maximum allowed under the pay policy. The Confederation of British Industry has said the schedule is irresponsible and carries serious inflationary implications.

Tass is today distributing 200,000 forms as part of its annual salary census. The replies are expected to reveal widespread inequalities in the pay of people doing similar jobs.

Schedule 11, designed to end pockets of low pay, allows unions to claim rises to end wage differences between comparable workers in similar industries in the same district. It is not clear how claims will be handled by the Central Arbitration Committee, and several

other unions are considering claims to test the measure.

Tass expects 100,000 replies to its salary census, to be analysed by computer, giving details on wages, holidays and other employment conditions in engineering and related industries. The first results are expected next month.

The engineering industry, which has no nationally agreed minimum wage rates, is seen by the unions as offering an opportunity to get pay rises above the limit for large numbers of members. Tass said yesterday: "We have made clear that we want increases over the wage restraint limit."

Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary, said: "We lost time when this unique trade union service (the Tass census) can assist all our members freely to negotiate wages and conditions which will adequately protect them against the ravages of inflation and restore living standards."

The union says it has evidence of people doing almost identical jobs in companies only a few miles apart and receiving wages varying by up to £10 a week.

Mrs Hart among witnesses for deportation plea

By Stewart Tandler

Home Affairs Minister Mr. Judith Hart, MP, a member of the Labour Party national executive and a former Minister for Overseas Development, will be among witnesses giving evidence in defence of Mr. Philip Agee, the former CIA agent, when he appears before the Home Office committee next week to appeal against a decision to deport him.

Mr. Stanley Newens, Labour MP for Barking, has also agreed to appear. When the hearing begins on Tuesday, Mr. Agee hopes to have at least 20 witnesses.

Mr. Agee and Mr. Mark Rosenblatt, who works for the London Evening Standard, need deportation for security reasons, but details of the allegations against them have not been given. Mr. Rosenblatt's hearing starts on January 19.

Mr. Agee, Home Secretary Mr. Callaghan has said the CIA has had everything to do with the deportation decision, but this week *The Leveller*, a left-wing magazine, has on its front cover the name, private address and telephone number of a political attaché at the United States embassy who, it alleges, is involved in the CIA.

Tomorrow afternoon the Agee-Rosenblatt Defence Committee is holding a protest march and rally at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park.

£80,000 bill for vandalism at Mersey docks

From Our Correspondent

Vandalism on the Mersey docks cost at least £80,000 last year and is expected to rise if port workers, according to figures disclosed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company yesterday. The company was criticised recently for restricting the issue of fishing permits to 100 per cent.

Damage during the year included the disappearance of 66 lifebelts from quaysides in five months. In one weekend 27 were lost. Safety ropes were slashed or stolen and manhole covers were removed for their scrap value. Ladders were stripped from warehouse roofs and fires were started in or near dock sheds.

The Chief Constable of the port police, Mr. Edward Post, said it was difficult to know whether a greater proportion of the damage was due to sheer vandalism or to theft.

Worker directors

The Bullock Report on Industrial Democracy is to be published soon, according to *The Times* on Monday. Peter Heennessy and staff correspondents abroad will report on the issues that confront trade unions and Britain's 600 leading companies in introducing working directors.

Mr. Heennessy, a staff correspondent, said that the report would be published in the *Times* on Monday. He said that the report would be published in the *Times* on Monday. He said that the report would be published in the *Times* on Monday.

Laughter in court over incompetent drug smugglers

By Clive Borrell

Two men who persuaded their friends to help in an attempt to break into the international drug-smuggling racket were sent to prison yesterday. Judge Alexander Karmel, QC, at the Central Criminal Court, described them as "hopeless incompetents."

"Everything you did from start to finish went wrong. You did not know how to organize things," he told the two ringleaders, Charles Sharp, aged 35, unemployed, of Clapham, London, and Ronald Kelly, aged 45, a driver of Danvers Avenue, Putney. Both were sentenced to three years.

Michael O'Brien, aged 23, unemployed, of Heyford Road, Hitchen, London, was given a two-year sentence. Mrs Ruby

Harman, aged 45, mother of five, of Onslow Road, West Croydon, was given a 12-month suspended sentence; Leonard Poole, aged 27, a company director, of Corrance Road, Brixton, was given a two-year suspended sentence and fined £1,500; Alan Edwards, aged 33, a welder, of Hazel Avenue, Belfield, Guildford, Surrey, was sent to prison for two years; Robert Clarke, aged 31, a window-cleaner, of Grantham Road, Stockwell, was given a 12-month suspended sentence; and Raymond Lerner, aged 29, a food-carrier, of Harling Court, Battersea, was sent to prison for two years.

All pleaded guilty to inducing or assisting in Britain in the illegal importation of cannabis resin into Spain contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Mr. Lerner was also sentenced to 12 months, to run concurrently, after pleading guilty to a theft charge.

The three-day hearing was often halted by laughter, not only from the public gallery, but also from the judge, counsel and the defendants, as the activities of the group were described for the prosecution.

On the first of several abortive attempts to smuggle cannabis into Spain from Morocco, one member of the group lost his nerve and sabotaged the venture by pouring sugar into the petrol tank of their van. The vehicle had to be abandoned.

During another attempt a cache of 60lbs of cannabis was discovered by the police; one of the group is serving a 12-year sentence in a Spanish prison for his part in the escape.

On one occasion the group



Mr David Markham, the actor, and his family, with another Russian refugee (right), welcoming Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, who recently left Russia, to their Sussex home yesterday.

Government wins 'test case' over wife's invalid care allowance

By Craig Seton

The Government has won its appeal against a national insurance tribunal decision to award a Glasgow housewife a benefit officially not available to married women.

If the Government's challenge had failed, an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 married women might have qualified for an allowance of £9.50 a week for caring for their disabled husbands.

Mrs Heather McMahon, aged 27, was said to be the only housewife in Britain to have been awarded the invalid care allowance, paid to people who give up work to care for relatives receiving attendance allowances, until the Government's challenge. The appeal then went before a national insurance commissioner.

The commissioner has upheld the Government's argument that the regulations on invalid care allowance specifically exclude married women caring for their husbands. That is on the assumption that a married woman would not usually work and therefore would not lose wages or rights to national insurance benefit.

Mrs McMahon's husband, Drew, aged 27, became ill two years ago and after a brain tumour he became paralysed down one side. He has a mental age of four. Before his illness he was a journalist and his wife was a telephoneist.

They have a bungalow in Shetland, but because of his illness they live with his parents in Glasgow, occupying separate rooms. Mrs McMahon

had maintained that she neither lived with her husband nor was maintained by him. The national insurance tribunal had originally agreed by a two-to-one majority that she fulfilled the conditions and awarded her the allowance.

Mr McMahon's father, Mr Andrew McMahon, a Glasgow district councillor, said of the decision: "I am deeply disappointed. Apparently, this allowance can be paid to a father or mother, a brother or sister, but not to a wife. It seems to cut right across the Sex Discrimination Act."

He said the commissioner's ruling had disclosed "a barefaced anomaly". He would ask Mr Jo Grimond, his son's MP, to take up the matter in the Commons.

Friendly cowman is key to higher milk yields

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent

Dairy herds with friendly cowmen produce more milk, an agricultural scientist said yesterday. Dr Martin Seabrook, of Nottingham University, reported that the higher yielding herds have cowmen who talk to their cows, pat them and go up to them in the field.

He published the results of a survey of 50 herds after four years' study of the influence on milk yields of dairymen's personalities. "The higher yielding herds tended to have confident introverts as cowmen," he said.

More than half the cowmen surveyed were found to swear at their animals and one in fifty sang to them as well. When Dr Seabrook investigated factors upsetting cows, 29 cowmen cited strangers, three mentioned women and two the music of the Bay City Rollers.

He found after examining herds with about seventy cows that those who talked to the animals secured a mean milk yield about a twelfth higher than those who seldom spoke. Those who patted the cows went about a tenth more milk than those who did not.

Dr Seabrook, a lecturer in management economics, said it was impossible to calculate how

much his work on cows cost. "I do some work for the Ministry of Agriculture on the economics of milk production, so I go round farms. I have a certain amount of time when I am free to do research and the Agricultural Training Board has shown an interest."

Saving £6.5m on feed: Dr Keith Dexter, the Government's leading agricultural adviser, said yesterday that the poultry industry had been saved £6.5m by a discovery at an experimental government farm.

Scientists had established that if the temperature in broiler houses was raised slightly the birds needed to eat less to produce the same amount of meat. Dr Dexter, director-general of the farm advisory service of the Ministry of Agriculture, told farmers in Shrewsbury that such developments were needed to keep British agriculture competitive in the EEC.

Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, called for government aid to pig producers. The latest cuts in wholesale prices amounted to a calamity on top of a disaster, he said at Alwoodley, near Leeds. Returns to producers would be cut by £2 for each animal.

Farmer put ring through dog's nose and filed teeth

From Our Correspondent

Welshpool

Two men inserted a metal ring through a sheepdog's nose and filed its teeth down because it had bitten lambs, magistrates were told at Llanfair Caereinion, near Welshpool, Powys, yesterday.

Allen Williams, aged 45, a farmer, of Glyndwr, Llanfair Caereinion, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the dog, was fined £20 and ordered to pay £50 costs; David Leonard Davies, aged 36, a farmworker, of Bronwenall, Llanfair, who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting him, was given an absolute discharge.

Inspector Leonard Jones, of the RSPCA, said it was the first case of its kind brought by the police. "I put a wire ring through the dog's nose. I filed its teeth down because it broke a lamb's leg. It is not cruel."

Mr Jones said that Mr Davies told him: "When we put the ring in the dog's nose it was growling and howling as if in pain."

Mr Ian Bainbridge, for the two men, said it was not unusual for a metal peg ring to be inserted in a sheepdog's nose to stop it biting sheep.

The magistrates decided that the dog could be returned to Mr Williams, after agreeing that it should remain with the RSPCA.

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins undaunted after all-night session to allocate EEC jobs

From Michael Horvath

Brussels, Jan 7

At 5.30 this morning, after nearly 15 hours of bargaining over portfolios among the 13 members of the new European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins, emerged, shellshocked, but unbowed, from his first important test as the Commission's President.

Describing the long horse-trading as a useful baptism into "the most important job I have ever tried to do in my life," Mr Jenkins told a press conference that his aim was to be a European President rather than a British one.

The new President declined to discuss in any detail the Commission's policy priorities, maintaining that his first duty was to the European Parliament, before which he will be appearing with the other 12 commissioners in Luxembourg next Tuesday. On the same day they will swear an oath of independence from national governments before the European Court of Justice.

The bargaining session was one of the toughest observers here could remember, but by no means the longest. Under the presidency of the Belgian, Mr Jean Rey, the Commission took six weeks to share out the jobs.

He is likely to give a higher priority to consumer interests than his predecessor, Mr Pierre Lardinois, and on past evidence is also expected to be more sympathetic to the British and Irish case for special protection for their fisheries.

Responsibility for negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (gatt) on textile questions is now part of the wide-ranging brief held by Viscount Edmund Devignon, of Belgium.

The task of negotiating EEC entry terms with Greece and other possible applicants, such as Portugal and Spain, which was formerly part of Sir Christopher Soames's dossier, will fall to Signor Lorenzo Natali, a Christian Democrat and one of the two new Italian commissioners. He has also been given a new responsibility for "contacts with the governments and public opinion of member states" regarding direct elections, and is expected to chivy governments who fall behind in completing the necessary preparations.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the former British Conservative MP, will draft the EEC's annual budget, while Mr Jenkins, in addition to the traditional presidential duties, is to assume personal responsibility for information policy and press relations.

The members of the European Commission and their responsibilities are as follows:

Mr Roy Jenkins (Britain): President; Secretary, legal, research, information and spokesman's office.

Vice-president:

Mr Jacques Delors (France): Economic and financial affairs; credit and monetary policy; budgetary and financial matters.

Mr Hans Egon Gundeck (Denmark): Agriculture; fisheries; rural development; regional development.

Mr Giovanni Conso (Italy): Social questions; industrial policy; nuclear safety questions; contacts with the Council of Ministers; the Commission's role in the preparation of the "European Year" (1979).

Mr Vangelis (Netherlands): Employment and social affairs; including regional development; training; education and trade unions; starting "European Year" (1979).

Mr Claude Cheysson (France): Development aid.

Mr Cees Branson (West Germany): Energy, research and science; education, science and technical information.

Mr Raymond Voser (Luxembourg): Competition policy; consumer protection; relations with the European Parliament.

Mr Jacques Delors (France): External relations; foreign policy; international trade; relations with the European Parliament.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat (Britain): Financial institutions; personnel and administration.

The 13 members are listed in order of seniority, with Jenkins at the top as a vice-president or member, where two members have been named as vice-presidents, the seniority is decided according to age.

Leading article, page 13

There was therefore some surprise that Herr Haferkamp should have been given so important a post. Observers noted, however, that certain parts of the portfolio have now been bled off to other commissioners. It is also thought Mr Jenkins himself may want to play a more active supervisory role in external affairs than his predecessor did.

Responsibility for fisheries negotiations, for example, formerly part of the external affairs brief, will be handled by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, a Danish career diplomat, who also gets the demanding agriculture portfolio.

British airliner's 'near miss'

The crew of a Scandinavian Airlines System DC9 airliner

filed a near miss report with the Dutch aviation authorities after their aircraft had passed closer than a British Airways BAC 1-11 airliner.

British Airways said in London last night that their captain had not filed an air miss report, nor had he sighted any other aircraft when the incident was alleged to have occurred over Amsterdam on Wednesday.

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Mass executions in Spain's civil war caused Communist leader to be known as the 'Assassin of Paracuellos'

Carrillo record belies his new image

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 7

The democratic halo at present worn by Señor Santiago Carrillo, secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, is somewhat tarnished by his own statements and his civil war record.

Although Señor Carrillo denies personal responsibility, few serious historians have much doubt about his role in the mass executions at Paracuellos, on the outskirts of Madrid, four months after the civil war began in 1936.

Mr Hugh Thomas, the chronicler of that war best known to British readers, says Señor Carrillo was responsible for public order at the time of the killings, adding that the first victims were killed at Paracuellos by their guards in a moment of panic.

Mr Thomas and other historians say that during the following days, mass executions of political prisoners were carried out in Madrid and Paracuellos, as well as in the other nearby towns of San Fernando and Torroja.

Exactly how many people died in the massacres at Paracuellos and other towns in the Madrid area is hard to say, but thousands of prisoners were taken from their cells in

November, 1936, in the Madrid area, and never heard of again. There are authenticated lists, complete with dates, in a number of cases, including the 105 prisoners taken from the San Antonio jail on November 27 and shot.

The Paracuellos affair alone was certainly enough to justify Señor Carrillo's nickname in right-wing circles as "Assassin of Paracuellos," but it was not the only affair in which he was involved that might cast doubt on the sincerity of his espousal of democracy.

As Madrid's public order chief, Señor Carrillo, who was 31 at the time, is also reported to have given the order for the assault on the Finnish embassy in Madrid, violating, from a post in the government, the principle of diplomatic immunity in order to imprison those who had taken asylum in the embassy.

A decree signed by General Franco and promulgated on March 31, 1969, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of his victory in the civil war, established a statute of limitations for such crimes, absolving Señor Carrillo from the threat of trial in connection with the killings.

But if the dictator and most other Spaniards have forgiven, many of them find it hard to forget. Last January 3, the

right-wing Madrid evening newspaper *Alcazar* dedicated its front page to a huge black cross and a brief text in memory of those executed at Paracuellos.

The edition was snapped up. The eager buyers in Valencia—and possibly in other parts of Spain as well—included Communists buying all available copies in order to keep it from circulating.

Señor Carrillo was a leader of Socialist Youth when extremist elements of that movement killed Falangist student Matías Montero on February 9, 1934. Seven months later—still more than a year and a half before the military uprising which eventually brought General Franco to power—Señor Carrillo told Socialist Youth members in a speech: "Don't be weak. Squashing an agent provocateur should give us the same sensation as squashing a cockroach."

In contrast with his present air of political respectability, Señor Carrillo said as late as October 10, 1975, when General Franco was already mortally ill: "I do not condemn violence. I am not opposed to violence. I accept it when it is necessary, and if the revolution in Spain calls for violence, as it has in other countries, I will be ready to carry it out."

Communist leaders agree on parties' independence

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Jan 7

The Italian and Romanian Communist leaders today firmly reiterated their belief in the right of all Communist parties to total independence. This claim was stated at some length in a communiqué issued after a two-day visit by Signor Enrico Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian party, to Bucharest.

Signor Berlinguer and President Nicolai Ceausescu, who met twice during the visit, also agreed fully on the need for Communist parties to collaborate with Socialist, Social Democratic and Christian Democratic parties in their efforts to create a new international order.

The visit and the communiqué were seen here as an opportunity for the Romanian party, in particular, to restate its independence from the

Soviet Union after the visit to Bucharest by Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, last November. It had been expected in some quarters that the Romanian party had had to retreat somewhat from its position during the visit for economic reasons.

Today's communiqué, however, left no doubt as to their stands. The two leaders insisted on "the full recognition of the right of every party to conduct its own policy on lines worked out and decided on in full independence."

They called for "the close observance of equality of rights and non-interference in (each party's) internal affairs and respect of its free choice... of methods and solutions... according to the historic, national, social and political situation in every country."

Further remand for Dutch war crimes suspect

Amsterdam, Jan 7—A wealthy Dutch art dealer, under interrogation about Nazi massacres of Jews 35 years ago, was today ordered to be detained for a further 30 days in the Amsterdam criminal court.

The dealer, Pieter Menten, aged 78, has been in custody since being expelled from Switzerland on December 22. He has denied allegations that he was involved in mass killings of Jews in 1941.

Mr Menten fled from Holland on November 15 and was detained by Swiss police on December 6 while staying with his wife at an hotel in Uster.

A justice ministry spokesman said it had not yet been decided when a senior Dutch investigation team would visit the Soviet Union to collect evidence relating to the accusations.

Reuter.

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An expatriate view of America

by J P Donleavy/Part One

Stretched on shady warm Mexican sand, I write this in the tropics by the Pacific Ocean's surf under pale green coconuts ripening high up in the sinuously waving arms of the palm trees. And hope to finish it, as I am presently doing, in a far away more northern latitude where a whole gang of strange bugs, having a circus, are not seething through one's alimentary canal. As they have now recently ceased doing and I contentedly rewrite and watch the apple trees blossom and hear bird song in a midland Irish orchard with the rain gently falling from its grey tumbling source on this roaring green land. And I sit thinking, as I often do, of America. Where on that ancient continent and in that then hundred-and-fifty-year-old country, I was born 50 years ago in Brooklyn to be raised in the Bronx. And except for my first twenty years in the King of Cities, New York, I have been an alien nearly everywhere for most of my life.

Although that nation is now 200 years old, it seems by its din, violence and energy, that it only decided to begin yesterday. With its weaving concrete highways awash with citizens encapsulated in steel. A society rolling on wheels and daily fanned by a consumer propaganda to buy, buy, buy. And keep the vast coast to coast heap glowing. And the horseless carriages propelled on the infinite highways heading anywhere and everywhere in a million streams that by day make like long dark threads and at night make twin white eyes moving one way and red tails the other. Only slowed or stopped momentarily by tornadoes, blizzards and earthquakes. And these itinerant occupants steering and tapping a throttle with their toes. Nudging over speed limits, listening to jazz and symphonies, lighting cigarettes and making phone calls in the vehicle they put on like a coat. Wearing it with its brand name. And by the colour, style and size, telling the world who they are.

Each time I go to these United States I start anew try to figure them out. And after two weeks I decide that like anywhere, greed, lust and envy make them work. But in America it is big greed, big lust, big envy. Laced liberally with larceny. And unlike most of the rest of the world, at least everyone gets their chance. And if it's slow in coming, you can always buy a gun. Stow someone on a highway or street, or walk into a bank. And give me the money. Or I'll blow your fucking head off.

But when growing up there, I remember it somehow more peaceful. Playing marbles on the dusty hard ground. Along summer shady streets of the uttermost northern Bronx. Or wandering through shooting chipmunks with slingshots carved from the forked branches of the dog wood tree. Folk would give you an apple and a quarter if you moved fast enough. And your legs ready to run.

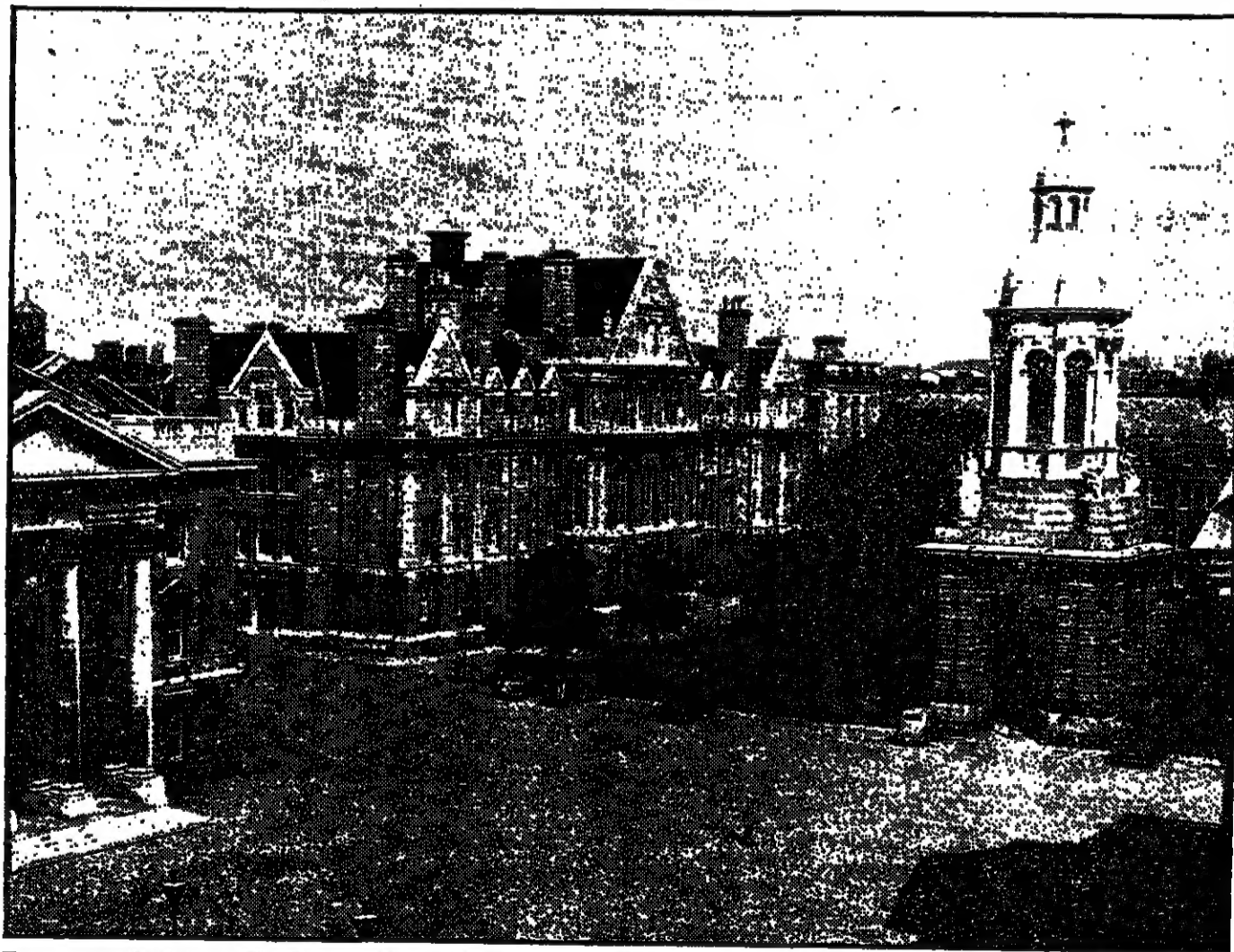
But mostly, across that wide spacious land, you could get big continuous hi there and hellios. As I did when summers my Irish immigrant father took us motoring west. Always in a brand new car. Crossing on the Lincoln highway. Out as far as Nebraska. Reading the rhythmic signs of Burma Share along the road. Or shouting when we saw a Rex sign on a Pennsylvania barn. The plenteous of the endless waving tassels of corn under the blazing sunlight across Indiana. The only fear was in Chicago. Where there was an epidemic of infantile paralysis. And I saw ambulances and fire trucks roaring through the streets. With the stories of the whole city once burning down racing through my mind.

great. Bigger and better than anywhere else in the world. And Ireland where he had come from was where they did not have a pot to piss in. And while I was growing America grew and grew. With those dreamland suburbs spreading ever more widely between the cities. And even the right side of the tracks sometimes became the wrong. With enough get up and go go go, you could, provided you did not try it by writing poetry and symphonies, grow up to be merely a modest millionaire. And one hardly remembered the hungry men begging door to door during the depression. Who would call at our brick house on the highest hill in the Bronx. And although my father would not give them money, he would write these gentlemen into our tiled kitchen to sit and eat with us. Great heaping helpings of meat, potatoes and vegetables. And glasses and glasses of my father's elderberry wine. Before midnight came, with my father's roaring laughter and telling and listening to stories, the men would be at least well fed and distinctly unsteady on their feet. Departing down the front steps to navigate the steep potholed hill to the bottom. Where an elevated train thundered above the road. And it was the only time I knew there were poor people in America.

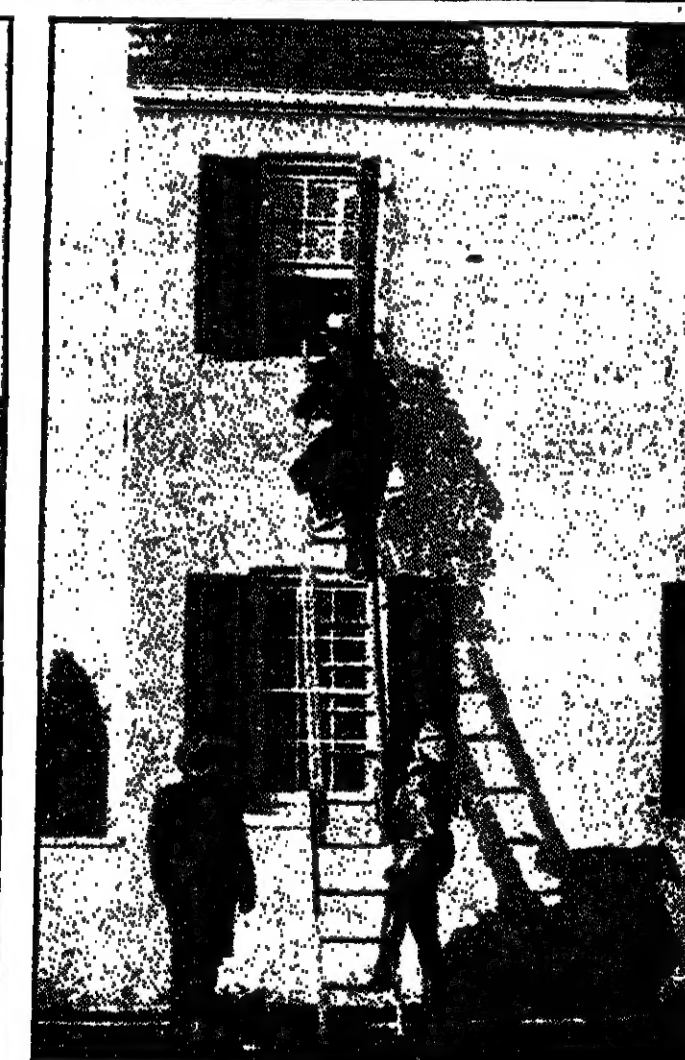
Because we had some neighbours too poor to have big budget proof touring cars and never seemed to work for their money, we moved to another community and a lesser hill two miles across a river and railroad tracks. Here the Bronx streets were cooler. With lots of nice little boys just like myself to play with. Summers we spent in a shingle house back from the road between potato fields out near golden sand dunes and a pounding sea. With the bounding names we'd pass getting there, of Jericho, Babylon, Patchogue and Oenone, making me think we were heading away from civilization. And one autumn, nightly, from my high bedroom window I could watch the rockets exploding their rainbow of colours over the distant World's Fair. Or on clear days see the trihedron they called a trilon and the big silver ball they called a perisphere. And everywhere and everywhere said that America was big strong and beautiful. Then came the Lindbergh kidnapping. New Jersey was suddenly somewhere awful. But the culprit was found in the East Bronx, a waste land of ugly junk lots, vegetable patches and shacks. Just where someone ought to live who would commit a grievous crime.

Cans now took the place of the glass jarred preserves that used to be made and stocked in our cellar each summer. My father's big wine barrels disappeared. I played street hockey on roller skates. And America seemed eternally peaceful. Until a foreign power did something evil on a rainy morning. I got expelled from a prep school and narrowly graduated from another. Just in time to go to war. And as a sailor one lonely Saturday afternoon with a twenty-four-hour pass I left my base at Little Creek, Virginia, where I was being trained as radar man in a crew. To sail an amphibious landing craft on to the Japanese occupied islands in the Pacific. Which I did not delight to think was really my cup of tea. Especially with the suicidal attitude of the enemy. And as one did then, most sensibly, instead of disappearing into the sailor swimming, beer swilling, and even prostitute furnished town of Norfolk, I would, if I didn't seek out the peace of the local library, go and visit another naval base. And I remember, as evening approached and great flood lights switched on, walking along the harbour quay of this vast naval installation. Passing under the giant grey piers and anchors of aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers and destroyers, all combat ready with their planes and tapering as far as my legs could take me. And I thought good lord, what idiot foreign power ever decided to take on this.

And someone did. And we saw arriving behind big wire fences prisoners of war. To whom we were ordered not to speak. And the hours were countable till the war in Europe was over. Sailors ran out of their quarters huts and looked up as if something would happen in the sky. Others took fire axes and chopped decks in half that they were supposed to carry somewhere. Moored flocks of amphibious ships in the harbour were booming and beer began to flow. I had some time previously, after much insist-



Top: J. P. Donleavy; The Bronx. "Everywhere and everything said that America was big, strong and beautiful." Bottom: Trinity College, Dublin. "A white-coated servant administer afternoon tea. The Lindbergh Kidnapping. The ladder used to reach the room where the child was sleeping. "New Jersey was suddenly somewhere awful."



ent begging of a welfare officer that I be given a chance to, taken mental exams and physical tests. And one instead of sailing out to Dublin. And the stories of a returned sailor friend who told me you could in Ireland drink quietly and secretly with a glass of this black beer and place of cheese in a little mahogany cubby hole in a pub called a snug. So with my poor high school record being instantly rejected by every American, and my mother's information that there was a college called Trinity, I wrote to Ireland to ask could I come. And I ran around for days looking at a letter emblazoned with an escutcheon of a lion, book, harp and castle which said yes, please do.

Throughout one's American upbringing somehow Europe seemed a strange and more tolerant clime. From which came the music of Mahler, Handel and Faure. And from where, refreshingly winging the oceans on short wave radio, you might hear a dirty unmeasured word. Spoken out of its war torn wise old ways. But it was its pomp and circumstance which seemed to leave the sweat socks, gleaming polished leather shoes, and the lazy just hanging around days of billiards and beaches. Or the beer saloons and dates at night with the tanned skinned, bright roothed ladies. But deep in one's back-ground there always lurked the sense of a foreign world in my parents' lives. For I had always been forbidden soda pop. And whenever I saw Coca Cola in a big brewery, and the drinking word stout.

It was in the peaceful library of this school where I conjured up a magical mystery about Europe's largest municipal park called Phoenix. Enviously I would see my friends trip down to the delicates to fetch back their combination salads and bologna meals. And sunny afternoons leaving on my way to the beach, my father, tending his dahlias, would smilingly say, "You have nothing to do but to enjoy yourself."

And so one October day climbing on an aeroplane, which three times went down the runway of Idlewild airport, and didn't take off, till on its fourth attempt three days later, I flew for fourteen hours via Gander to Shannon. Landing in this my country. With its dazzlingly white swans sailing on glistening ponds nestled in the quiet green pastures. Straight out of a fairy tale. And in a small prefab building by the grassy landing field, for breakfast I had bacon rashers. These monstrous and mahogany, were curled thick next to two gleaming sunny fried eggs. The big crystal grains of sugar. A strange liquid called tea. The yellow yellow butter. The corrugated crumbed brown flocked soda bread. And the simplicity. In this sea fresh moist air. Here all you had to do was to keep warm. And dry. To eat. To sleep. To listen. And drink in the pubs. And before you froze to death you had to start doing all these things in a hurry.

In Europe's slow awakening after the war, Ireland was an isolated outpost. And you found that you came as an glamorous envoy from an invincible and the most powerful and richest nation on earth. Folk greeted you with a ready smile or with a curiosity radiated by lurking envy. You were an American over and above everything else about you. People came as they might to a museum to look in your cupboard. At the array of your 14 pairs of shoes. Your 15 suits and neat tall stack of shirts and underwear. And like Americans did you even gave some of them away. Folk sought your company. And bought your drinks till when everyone was drunk enough, they'd tell you why the hell did you do what you did to the Irish Indians or that America had no culture. And suddenly, patriotism awoke, and with the cry of "off to the bench fighting amphibians we sail at break of day", an evening would erupt in war.

But otherwise, America for nearly seven years was remote way back west beyond the massive big blue green crashing Atlantic ocean. But you found it in other Americans you met. Always delighting and cherishing to be in their company. Spoken and criss free company. Where you could say your whole meaning with a smile. As these handful of expatriates demonstrated things like the jitter bug and how the zoot suit was worn. Or played their specially armalred records that otherwise would take years to reach Ireland. And where they did modern citizen's gramophone, their smooth rendition was usually short lived. Terminated by some sincerely drunk poet who would soon pee into the loudspeaker or be thrown crashing against the turntable in a fight. Often started over a split infinitive in the song's lyric. And then you knew that the only America you could now know would mostly reach you in the weekly news magazines. To restir your memory and some of your dreams. Of that wonder golden land being buried deeper and deeper by the new life you knew.

But as far away as you may go, or as foreign as your life can ever become, there is something - American - that always stays stained American in you. Even if it is only the bliss of slathering vanilla ice cream over the deep blue purple of blueberry pie. And as a land, it always, however faintly, gloves with promise. And during those new born years after the Second World War when expatriates like me tried their luck and educations in Europe, spending their days in primitive strange discomfort, chilled and damp in Ireland, albeit with a white college servant to their right, their nights bitten by bed bugs in Paris, they always felt that back there waiting for them that place they knew and understood, called home. Which, when the chips were down, they could flee for comfort of soap showers, chocolate milkshakes and big purr-matic whirled drum majorettes cheering amid the cheering banners, bunting, the hot dogs and beer. Of monstrous sleek money-rich corporations where, neled suited man would say, welcome back, how nicely Mr D. you are qualified by your five cultured years in Europe,

and by the way, I like your accent, I really do, and her with our board's most hearty compliments, is your five monthly big bushel of dollars.

And yet when I read no back in my letters written when I, like others, with boy confidently tucked up in a crook of one's tweed jacket arm, returned to that land opportunity, I see the wul escape, and other words to intending traveller, formerly Dayton, Ohio, decamped from Mount Arrat Road, Surrey wishing to join me. And whom I wrote.

The Northern Uttermost Era
A Solemn Satire

"Dear Gaius,
Unfortunately your letter finds me in a beaten sun. Coming here is the biggest mistake I have ever made. My life. Someone who has read The Ginger Man manuscript has pointed out that it would mean my passport would be revoked by the State Department and would be forever doomed stay in this country. If it come be prepared for it unless in despair. There will be no pie in the sky expected. This is not a land of the big noble ric everyone is screwed. This is a fantastic red scare for the whole country undergoing a rigorous censorship. want to go back to Europe where I can regain my civility. Come if you will be here. It is sad and tight. Where no man has it opportunity to feel any joy continued on opposite page

هكذا من الأصل

Paperbacks of the month



Greta Garbo, 1931: photograph by Clarence Sinclair Bull, from *Hollywood Glamour Portraits 1926-1949*, edited by John Kobal. (Dover/Constable, £4.)

A fair time in the dark

A Biographical Dictionary of the Cinema, by David Thomson (Secker & Warburg, £3.90)

Moviemakers are lovers of darkness. Some are pale with going, some are addicted to popovers and other stuff, but all of them are at home in the potentially exciting darkness of the cinema. There are literally hundreds of books now available on the history of the cinema, some with big reputations others with this one and many which overlap or are contradictory. David Thomson's *A Biographical Dictionary of the Cinema* is well worth close attention. Some commentators of film who earn money by their opinions often seem to me to dislike the medium that

affords them their salaries. While I can understand a politician or a lawyer or perhaps a street sweeper in Oxford Street becoming disenchanted with his lot, but a man who goes to the movies for free? Never!

David Thomson certainly loves the cinema and he has produced (I assume you are a moviegoer) a fine testimony of his affection. I dread to think of his completion for he has spent a fair time in the dark.

This book is deeply personal and very opinionated, exactly as it should be, but it is at the same time exciting and very thought-provoking. Many cinema books are mere lists of the details of births, release dates, etc. and of course these are interesting to the buff; but Thomson goes beyond such commonplaces. When I read about Stanley Kramer (which is not often) I am very familiar with the popular dates of his birth, 1913 and 1928. Thomson goes for the first one. The point that interests me is

what the writer thinks of Kramer. As a matter of interest, Thomson does not think much of Kramer at all. "Kramer is a hollow pretentious man, too dull for art and too cautious for politics." Well, perhaps, but what about *High Noon* or *The Caine Mutiny*?

Nobody will read this book without being caught up in the author's opinions—indeed it is unthinkably there will be agreement or scorn.

There are 800 entries of directors, actors, producers and these entries are not the usual telegrams, some are very sharp and very detailed essays indeed. The points made are well cross-referenced and there is a very useful bibliography. The sections on Fred Astaire, Keaton, Godard, etc. are fascinating and often very humorous. I am delighted to report that he liked Wallace Berman "and for his entry on Peter Lorre I would buy him a drink, a large one."

Tom Baker

Philosophy Pot shots at sacred cows

Celebration of Awareness, by Ivan Illich (Marion Boyars, £1.95)
Energy and Equity, by Ivan Illich (Marion Boyars, £1.25)
Limits to Medicine, by Ivan Illich (Marion Boyars, £2.50)

Ivan Illich is a radical so thoroughgoing that he makes the Tribune group seem like a tattered bellows full of angry wind. Since co-founding (in 1951) the Centre of Living Cultural Documentation in Cuenavaca, Mexico, and withdrawing from the official priesthood of the Catholic Church, he has become the flag-carrier of a cultural revolution: a Christian humanism that denounces "all measures of change which disregard the response of the human heart" as either evil or naive.

From this viewpoint communists and capitalists are barely to be distinguished; they are simply battalions of the same anti-human force, sharing at bottom the same material goals and values, though championing different segments of society and arming themselves with different weapons. As the earliest of this trio illustrates (*Celebration of Awareness*), all ideologies, institutions and

bureaucracies come under the prophet's hammer in so far as they try to impose systems on the human being instead of taking him as the starting point and humbly serving his true needs and feelings. Illich is for autonomy rather than dependence; spontaneity and joyful self-realization rather than conformity; growing awareness and choice rather than conditioned reflexes and satisfactions. Above all, though no Luddite, he is implacably opposed to unrestrained technocracy and rampant consumerism which shape human education and activities.

From 1970 onwards Illich has at regular intervals sallied out of his Mexican hide to pot the sacred cows of urban, industrialized society. Modern transport, he insists, impedes mobility. Modern schooling closes minds. Modern medicine spreads disease. The bureaucratic Church conceals the gospel. These impermanent paradoxes have been angrily rebutted by those who own or milk the sacred cows, and passionately embraced by those who are trampled by them. But they stem from a coherent vision of what it means to be truly human, and an exceptional breadth of experience. An aristocrat of mixed European stock, Illich has worked chiefly among the poor in the United States and Latin America; he is a theologian and philosopher with a scientific training, and he marries encyclopaedic knowledge to a soaring poetic imagination.

It is first-hand experience of the futile attempt by semi-developed countries in Latin America to ape the consumer societies that fringe the North Atlantic, which has led Illich to question the model. In both he discerns the same disquieting pattern; vast expenditures to provide services for a managerial middle class with a concomitant neglect of the basic needs of the great majority. His general ideas are applied to particular institutions in *Limits to Medicine* which is a re-working of Medical Nemeses in the light of subsequent criticism, and *Energy and Equity*.

The first claims that doctors have become a professional caste which undermines ordinary people's native capacity to care for their own health and nurse their sick; that hospitals have become expensive technical factories which drain resources from a conventional measure of health care. The many, in order to provide sophisticated treatment for a few; that the public are saturated with drugs whose properties they do not comprehend; and that modern medicine succeeds as much disease as it cures. Illich argues his case with blazing clarity, ferocious intensity, and a wealth of instances. In the second book he trains his fire on modern transport systems which he sees as giant octopi that strangle the world to provide fast locomotion for the privileged few. The unbridled development of modern vehicles and roads clogs cities, wastes energy, pollutes the environment, and constricts the walking and cycling which would answer most personal needs.

In each case study Illich's fundamental question is to ask what people can do for themselves, and how technology can be used selectively and economically to benefit rather than harm. Though his message has so far gained a reader hearing in poorer countries, as swelling numbers and diminishing resources undermine the assumptions of developed societies, his ideas are likely to prove increasingly valuable. And perhaps prevent mankind fashioning a world that is a hell paved with good intentions.

John F. X. Harriott

Another Part of the Wood, by Kenneth Clark (Coronet, £1.25). Born of idle, philistine, rich parents, Lord Clark, in a most enchanting autobiography, chronicles his escape from the fate which overtook all his father's family but one, both boys and girls—the whisky bottle. This volume takes us through the early years spent in the Berenson household, a happy marriage, children, the directorship of the National Gallery at the age of 30, and what he calls the Great Clark Boom—until the outbreak of war. A wonderfully affectionate and sardonic eye for a character, and a keen sense of the ridiculous. Witty, highly entertaining and more, please.

KONTIKI-AKU-AKU-RÄ
FATLI-HIVA

THOR HEYERDAHL

Over forty years ago, Thor Heyerdahl and his young bride decided to go "back to nature" — to the remote tropical island of Fatu-Hiva. This is his account of the year that was to change his life...

Now a Penguin Book 85p

They have come full circle. But they are transformed; it is through no more than a heightened awareness of what could have been evident from the outset. This, quite simply, is the presence of goodness. Gunn's hope is that in sensing and responding to this, the reader will undergo an equivalent transformation.

Shortly before his death four years ago, Neil Gunn expressed pleasure that there had been set up, in his name, an "international fellowship": the two words which in the course of a long lifetime had, he said, come to mean most to him. The reissue of these novels, each complementing the others, will bring a gleam to the eye of any member of the fellowship whose canon is incomplete without them. I like to think many more may be drawn by his wisdom, and the internationalism of his nationalism, to the remembrance of his treasure-house.

Stewart Conn

Fiction

Sparse soil and relentless sea

The Grey Coast, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.50, £3.50). Morning Tide, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.60, £3).

The Grey Coast, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.50, £3.50). Morning Tide, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.60, £3). Young Art and Old Hector, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.50, £3). The Green Isle of the Great Deep, by Neil Gunn (Sovvenir Press, £1.60, £3).

The grey Cairnness coast of Neil Gunn's upbringing dominates his novels. It provides a setting for man's conflict with the elements; his struggle to wrest a living from a sparse soil, a relentless sea. Gunn's crofters and their womenfolk at once perpetuate, and transcend, the tight-knit communities which command their loyalties.

An approach to his first novel cannot but be coloured by an awareness of the subsequent masterpieces. Conversely, a new reader may find it hard to become attuned to the subjective impressionism of *The Grey Coast* (1928), sea descriptions so intensely detailed in some respects and enigmatic in others.

The action takes place on the Moray Firth, at the turn of the century. A self-willed farmer has worked a miserly crofter's land for him over the years. He sees the crofter's niece as, eventually, his side of the bargain. A penniless young fisherman also yearns for her. The ensuing clash, with its dominant fear of economic and

Crime Not forgotten again

The John Franklin Bardin Omnibus (Penguin, 95p).

A crime reviewer's life is hard. The padded bags in which the books arrive frequently explode in clouds of clinging grey dust. I have had blood drawn by a recalcitrant staple. And, worst of all, people come up and tell you what was the best crime book ever. More often than not the book named is either one called *Devil Take the Tail-Flap* or one called *The Deadly Percheron*. My informant's seldom remember the authors.

Both, in fact, are by the same American, John Franklin Bardin, and with *The Last of Philip Bantz*, they make up this splendid Penguin omnibus good value at less than £1. The three were written within 18 months of each other in 1946 and 1947. Over here *The Deadly Percheron* had some success, but otherwise none made much impact anywhere. But for Julian Symonds, historian of the crime genre, they continued to be something of an obsession and during a recent stay in America he tracked down, not without difficulty, their author, finding him alive and well and editing a legal journal in Chicago. To Mr Symonds, who is also editor of Penguin's crime fiction, we owe the present sterling story volume. Because, make no doubt, these three books are excellent.

So why did they drop from sight? The answer, I think, is that they were too good. They were ahead of their time. They are intensely romantic, yet and, like many of this sort through the decades, they selected as their subject matter a just-explored territory. Where it was once America, my new-found-land, and later mysterious Tibet or yet later the frontiers of space. Bardin says that the last true swimmer in our ken was that being laid open by the successors of Freud and Jung. His subject is the mind, especially under stress. But he saw this a little differently. The bulk of romantically prone readers at that time and in the years immediately after were still hooked on the directly opposite worlds of science fiction.

Now, I hazard, prepared by talk of brain-washing, of LSD hallucinations, of Langian high psychic jinks, we are a good deal readier for what Bardin has to say. And certainly the tone of these three books is extraordinarily up-to-the-minute. You do not feel as with many novels written 30 years ago, that they come from a different era. It is even quite a shock when a serious journalist in *The Last of Philip Bantz* is described as having moved from newspapers, not to television, but to radio.

But, that apart, this story of an advertising executive on the verge of alcoholism who finds an autobiographical "confession" appearing in instalments on his desk when he has no recollection at all of having written it might well be set in New York today. Similarly, the curious account in *The Deadly Percheron* of a young psychiatrist whose client disappears after a session, and deliver a mighty percheron horse to the apartment of an actress, soon found murdered, is very much of our times, though the lady had the lead in a musical called *Nevada*. And again in *Devil Take the Tail-Flap*, the only one of the three not to feel the need to provide its events with a rational (indeed who-dun-it) explanation, the story of a young woman's discovery of the time she was leaving a mental institution through a series

of events which may or may not be hallucinatory seems altogether contemporary, even to the fashionability of the folk singer whose theme song provides the intriguing title. A pretty remarkable piece of character creation this, first for showing us from the inside a person succumbing to schizophrenia (generally I feel that having a promiscuous wife is out of the question in too much illogicality in to be interesting; but not here) and secondly for portraying an ex-cant musician wholly believably.

Romantic boots are big and to wear them without stumbling you have to be no mean sturdier Bardin, in these books, was that. The events in them are superbly startling, but always convincingly accounted for; their settings are sometimes wonderfully louché, but are described with convincing realism; the language can rise to properly flamboyant heights ("success? 'I bore her to me' 'desecry', all within a few pages) but never falls into ruts. He is a writer, I believe, who will not be forgotten again.

H. R. F. Keating

Ghosts Freezing and curdling

Victorian Tales of Terror, edited by Hugh Lamb (Coronet, 80p). The Supernatural Omnibus, edited by Montague Summers. Volume One: Hauntings and Horrors (Penguin, 95p). Volume Two: Diabolism, Witchcraft and Evil Lore (Penguin, 90p). The Bumper Book of Ghost Stories, edited by Aldous Huxley (Penguin, 75p). New Tales of Unease, edited by John Burke (Pan, 50p). The 12th Fontana Book of Great Ghost Stories, edited by R. C. Marsh (Fontana, 50p). The 17th Pan Book of Horror Stories, edited by Herbert van Thal (Pan, 50p). Ghost Hunting, by Andrew Green (Mayflower, 60p).

Sometimes, when a writer sets out to terrify, I remember Gilbert's Robin Oakapple, who proposed to freeze his victim's marrow by making hideous faces. When the stevedore Adam, replied: "It would be simply rude—nothing more."

Roughly, one hundred writers have been lurking round me, ready to freeze and curdle. Many, alas, are simply rude. Victorians remain the most skilful of ghost-story tellers: they could shake their own souls and they shake ours. I never thought I could treat seriously such a passage as this: "Mary Llewellyn, Yolande said once more in a still deeper tone, with ineffable calmness, 'You are a coward, a willing sacrifice, for the service of man, and the security of this tower against thunder and lightning.' Yolande is a ghost, a 'royal maid' sprung from the blood of Henry Plantagenet. Near parody, but Grant Allen's story, 'Wolverden Tower', is, preposterously, the most convincing thing in Hugh Lamb's *Victorian Tales of Terror*. Among others, are Elizabeth Braddon's piece in which the blood slowly oozes away from the victim's forehead, and one of M. P. Shiel's word-inflated anecdotes, a meeting with someone who "in the redundancy of her decorative development, reassembled Parvati, love-goddess of the husband, and the goddess of the husband's house, the Brahman." We go on from there.

Montague Summers's *The Supernatural Omnibus* is peculiar: such masterpieces as *Perceval Landon's* "Thurley Abbey" (Edwardian country house) and "The white and tattered veil" looks

emotional deprivation, is vividly handled.

The *Grey Coast* fascinates for its foreboding. Gunn's other work. A revision was published under a different imprint, five years after it first came out. This text is incomprehensibly ignored, in the current edition. From a bibliographical point of view, more accuracy is required throughout the series. It is not just a question of giving credit where it is due: relevant to *The Green Isle of the Great Deep* (1944) for instance, is the knowledge that it was written during the Second World War.

Morning Tide (1931) further defines Gunn's territory, and confirms his values. The wind freshens as the fishing fleet heads for harbour in the earlier book, overcast *Morning Tide's* storm scene—one of his finest set pieces. The book describes a remote community and its fight for survival. Through the boy Hugh, it also depicts a struggle for self-expression, within that community.

Gunn is at his most exhilarating when recapturing the joys and agonies of youth. He has an uncanny knack of pinning down the grace-notes, the correspondences, which early experience is illuminated. *Highland River*, in this respect, is quite magical.

Kenneth Clark's hunting instincts of his ancestors. His poaching forays are simultaneously a search for the source of delight; and for his identity, in the running waters of time. They are also fixed in a social context. When the great salmon is caught, and carried home under cover of darkness, it has to be taken to Sans's shop to be weighed.

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NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Gardening

A vision of spring

There is no obligation on gardening scribes to look into the crystal ball, and perhaps I am silly to do so. At least I would be spared the derisory cackling of some readers when I have suggested that by the law of averages we might be in for a hard winter or a late cold spring and it has not come off.

I do, however, venture on to firmer ground and prophesy that the tremendous rains of last autumn will have caused considerable loss in the soil of plant food, particularly nitrogen, by leaching. That is, it has been washed down especially on the lighter soils, to lower levels beyond the reach of more shallow rooted plants.

Many lawns have recovered very well from the beating they took during the drought, especially those that were watered generously while watering was still permitted. But many of my friends are unhappy about their grass with many thin or bare patches. Some of these patches may yet fill in—only need one grass plant every two or three inches gradually to cover a bare patch, and in any case it is easy enough to sow some seed in the spring.

Do not, however, be in too great a hurry—the last week in April is time enough to sow grass seed—even later, provided you can water the ground if necessary. But all lawns will benefit from applications of lawn fertilizer in the spring. Cultivated ground, also flower beds and borders, will also respond to fairly generous feeding, and in response to many requests we will be repeating

our special offers of hop manure, spring turf conditioner, and Phostrogen in due course. The other vision I see in the murky crystal ball is of ever increasing prices of fruit and vegetables. Mind you, I have little patience with people who complain about high prices of tomatoes—50p a pound in December. I have a friend who manages some greengrocers' shops, and while he cheerfully takes the money is very brusque with people who complain about the cost of these imported out-of-season items.

But, as any housewife knows, it is the out of season, the early or late crop that fetches the most money. And here with the help of greenhouses, frames and cloches we can do battle with the weather and win some valuable weeks in our efforts to produce the worthwhile crops. To help readers achieve this desirable result we shall be offering plastic cloches later this month.

The cost of greenhouse heating is now so daunting that I have concentrated all my greenhouse plants, bowls of bulbs, overwintering geraniums, dahlias and begonia rubers into two small greenhouses and a heated frame. Having such a large assortment of plants in one house brings its problems, because overcrowding tends to impair air movement, creating an unduly moist atmosphere no matter how carefully we water and try to keep the atmosphere "buoyant" as the old gardeners say.

This in turn tends to encourage moulds and other diseases—especially on primulas

and young geranium plants. We spray with a suitable fungicide when necessary, but we find one of the small electric fans hung high up in the house excellent for preventing these diseases from taking hold and spreading. The fan is hung as high as possible at the end of the house farthest from the door, and pointing downwards towards the door at an angle of 10 degrees. The warm air that rises is directed down again, and the air movement dries

condensed moisture on the foliage thus restricting the spread of diseases.

The current consumed by these small fans is negligible, and I believe the redirecting of the warm air down again results in a saving of fuel. These fans, available from Huxley Ltd, High Road, Byfleet, Surrey, are specially made for use in the damp conditions of a greenhouse, and over the years I have many times been thankful for ours.

Jobs for January
With the much improved insecticides available nowadays, for application in spring and summer, many gardeners do not spray their fruit trees with a tar oil winter wash every year against aphids and other pests. Even so, I like to spray my fruit trees and bushes with a tar oil spray every third year, and besides dealing with overwintering pests it does clean up the trees and bushes of green algae which, in my garden at least, is rather bad this year after the wet autumn.

I spray not only my fruit trees and bushes, but also ornamental deciduous trees and shrubs if the branches are covered with algae. Do not, of course, use these winter washes on evergreens, and do not let the spray fall on foliage of plants growing beneath the deciduous trees or shrubs.

Finish gathering up fallen leaves and clearing last year's debris from flower beds and borders. Be particularly careful to remove leaves that may be pro-

viding cover for slugs in the rock garden or in flower borders. Check fruit and vegetables in store; many are not keeping too well this year.

Order seeds and any garden sundries such as string, wire, labels, insecticides and the like, which you know you will need later on. They are bound to cost more as the months go by.

If you can track down a local supply of seed potatoes, get them as soon as you can and set them up to sprout in a frost free greenhouse or spare room. Then you can plant them under cloches in March, or in tubs, pots or deep boxes in a cold frame or, better still, in a heated greenhouse, to get that very welcome and valuable early crop in May or June.

If the weather is too wet or cold to work outside, there are usually some jobs to do in the garden shed or the garage. Treat the bottom floor or so of canes and stakes with a wood preservative. These items are becoming very pricey these days.

Roy Hay

Chess

The battles at Hastings

Someone from the BBC Television science section came down to Hastings to do a filmed interview with me on the subject of my code-breaking work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. During his researches he had come across so many chess-players that he wanted to have a chess background for my interview.

I had the idea of using the Hastings Chess Club for the purpose. It proved a wise choice. This was an Elysium inhabited and blessed not so much by the souls of poets dead and gone, but by such departed spirits as Smolensky and Lesker, Alekhine and Capablanca, and most recently of all, Hugh Alexander and Paul Keres. These they all were on the wall, photographed in their moments of triumph: Emanuel Lasker modestly victorious over Bernstein and Paul Keres, the handsomest and most attractive of all the immortals.

These all seemed to gaze down quizzically on my efforts at explaining how the German naval codes were broken. It was some 30 odd years ago that I had been working as a cryptographer in the Foreign Office and I was fully conscious of the fact that Hugh Alexander, for example, would have been much better qualified for the task of explanation than I was. He was undoubtedly the driving force behind the whole organization of the Naval Section.

Curiously enough, it was the last named who did in fact win the first prize, whereas Steinitz, who finished only sixth, did at least have the consolation of defeating von Bardeleben in a most brilliant game.

The 1895 event was not the start of the present series of Hastings tournaments. These commenced in 1920 and, with an interval for the war years, have continued ever since. Dobell was still the moving force for the earlier ones of this series and I remember him

in my youth as a gentle old man with a passion for chess and music, having seen him at a chess tournament in the daytime and then at a symphony concert at Queen's Hall in the evening. Though there have been a number of devoted organizers of the Hastings event since—Rider, Rhoden, Glyde and Morry come readily to mind—it was Dobell who was responsible chiefly for the tradition of chess at Hastings.

He would have enjoyed the present tournament, the Ladbroke Premier, in which the sort of fighting chess he admired is being played. Here is a game from the first round which, if not free from errors, is still most exciting.

White: Smolensky
Black: Keres
Q. P. Queen's Indian Defence.
1 P-Q4 K-K3 2 N-K3 P-K3 3 P-K3 P-K3 4 P-K3 P-K3 5 P-K3 P-K3 6 P-K3 P-K3 7 P-K3 P-K3 8 P-K3 P-K3 9 P-K3 P-K3 10 P-K3 P-K3 11 P-K3 P-K3 12 P-K3 P-K3 13 P-K3 P-K3 14 P-K3 P-K3 15 P-K3 P-K3 16 P-K3 P-K3 17 P-K3 P-K3 18 P-K3 P-K3 19 P-K3 P-K3 20 P-K3 P-K3 21 P-K3 P-K3 22 P-K3 P-K3 23 P-K3 P-K3 24 P-K3 P-K3 25 P-K3 P-K3 26 P-K3 P-K3 27 P-K3 P-K3 28 P-K3 P-K3 29 P-K3 P-K3 30 P-K3 P-K3 31 P-K3 P-K3 32 P-K3 P-K3 33 P-K3 P-K3 34 P-K3 P-K3 35 P-K3 P-K3 36 P-K3 P-K3 37 P-K3 P-K3 38 P-K3 P-K3 39 P-K3 P-K3 40 P-K3 P-K3 41 P-K3 P-K3 42 P-K3 P-K3 43 P-K3 P-K3 44 P-K3 P-K3 45 P-K3 P-K3 46 P-K3 P-K3 47 P-K3 P-K3 48 P-K3 P-K3 49 P-K3 P-K3 50 P-K3 P-K3 51 P-K3 P-K3 52 P-K3 P-K3 53 P-K3 P-K3 54 P-K3 P-K3 55 P-K3 P-K3 56 P-K3 P-K3 57 P-K3 P-K3 58 P-K3 P-K3 59 P-K3 P-K3 60 P-K3 P-K3 61 P-K3 P-K3 62 P-K3 P-K3 63 P-K3 P-K3 64 P-K3 P-K3 65 P-K3 P-K3 66 P-K3 P-K3 67 P-K3 P-K3 68 P-K3 P-K3 69 P-K3 P-K3 70 P-K3 P-K3 71 P-K3 P-K3 72 P-K3 P-K3 73 P-K3 P-K3 74 P-K3 P-K3 75 P-K3 P-K3 76 P-K3 P-K3 77 P-K3 P-K3 78 P-K3 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Food

Versatile sticks

From root to leaf tip, there is absolutely no waste in celery. It is delicious raw, crisp and crunchy in salads as a hot vegetable; and a taste of celery gives soup a lively flavour.

Celery is invaluable in salads, combining happily with most leafy vegetables, fruit and nuts, too. Here are some ideas to start you experimenting. To dress salads use a dressing of mayonnaise, French dressing or soured cream mixed with a pinch of sugar, onion juice and seasoning to taste—and do remember that celery can be shredded and added to other salads for garnish.

For a salad, wash and trim celery stalks and remove the "strings" from larger stalks. Cut into slices celery thinly. Wipe, then slice celery sticks. Layer with lettuce and core apples. Peel the peel on it, it's a nice touch. Dice the apple finely and mix at once with French dressing or lemon juice to prevent discoloration. Mix celery, apple and dressing to taste. Add in roughly chopped walnuts. But Black's recipe will blacken if added too early.

Philly, pineapple and sultana: mix finely sliced celery, sultana, pineapple and sultana. Dress with mayonnaise and a dash of lemon juice. Mix celery, pineapple and sultana. Dress with mayonnaise and a dash of lemon juice. Mix celery, pineapple and sultana. Dress with mayonnaise and a dash of lemon juice.

Celery for braising as a vegetable must be very fresh; otherwise it can be stringy. To prepare it this way, you have to cut the stalks into sections and then cut them up with a sharp knife to provide a surface on which to cook the celery. Cooked celery is softer than crisp, which means it is not every body's favourite, but it does go down with rich meats like beef and duck.

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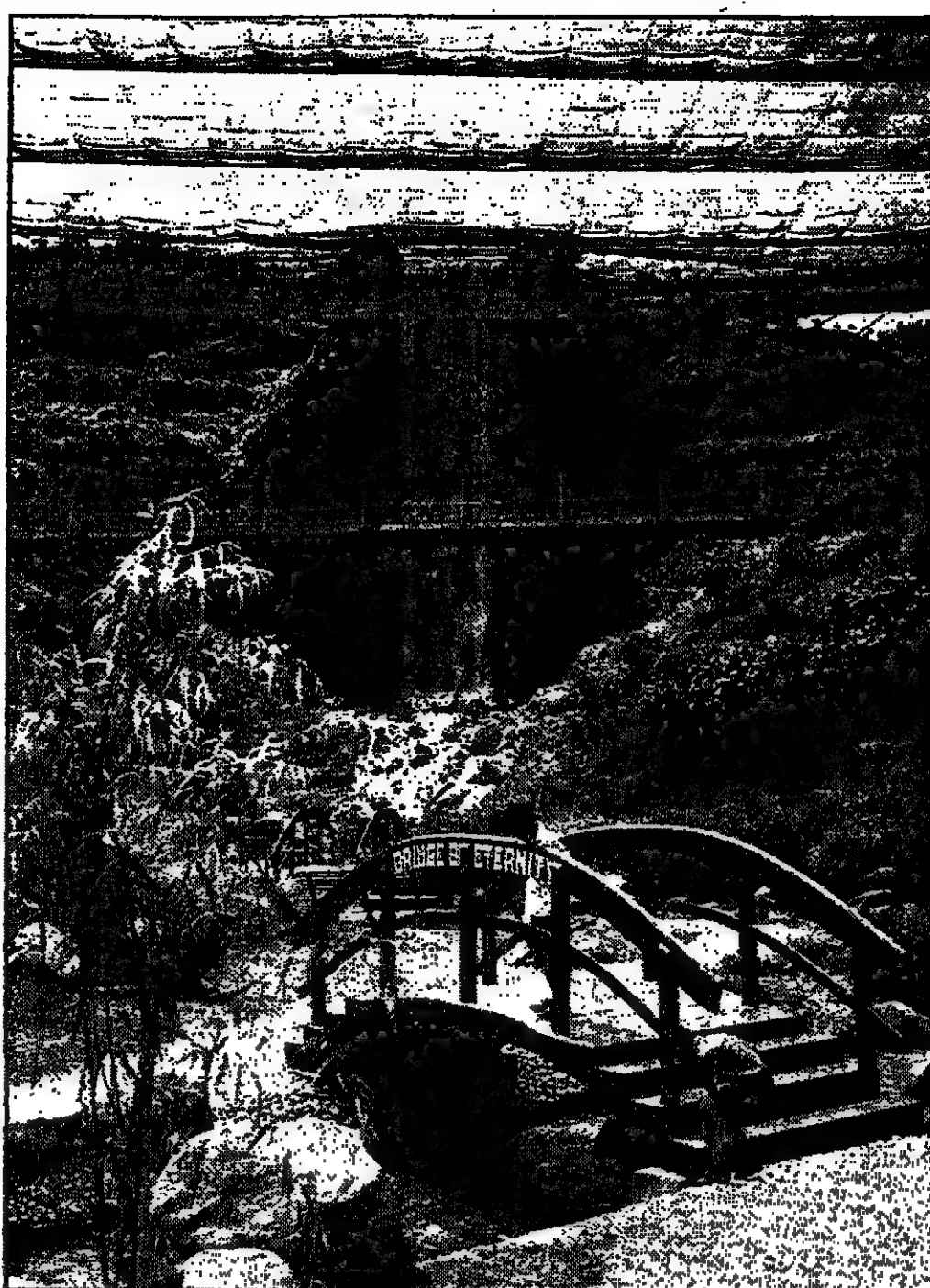
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Travel

Flying family visits



The netted aviary at Jurong, Singapore.

The world's largest and most colourful birdcage is to be found at Jurong, Singapore. Cables have been stretched over the top of a bird gully and covered with wire mesh, the natural contours of the land forming the cage "walls". At the rear, a 100 foot high man-made waterfall pours down, creating a river which flows through the aviary, beneath traditional high arched bridges. The whole aviary encloses five acres and, as you walk through it, hundreds of birds wheel and flash about your heads. The Jurong park covers a 50 acre site in all, and claims to house more than 7,000 birds, including dozens of rare species.

A visit to that park was one of the excursions I took when in Singapore last October, sampling a "Stopover Holiday", organized for members of the Australia and New Zealand Emigrants and Families Association who were en route to spend Christmas with their families "down under". The excursion took in a number of sights including the world renowned Tiger Balm Gardens, a concrete cascade of Chinese mythology, and its cost included in the holiday's basic price.

Since I wrote of Singapore in November those prices have had to be increased, but still represent very good value for money. Two nights at the first class Ming Court hotel can be had for just £7.50—the arrangement including twin bedded accommodation and English breakfast transfers between airport and hotel, and the sightseeing tour.

(If, like the group with which I travelled, you are escorted by a representative of ANZFA, the cost of a two night stay could be just £18—this price including all the above-mentioned, plus dinner each day and a second sightseeing tour.) These basic stopover holidays, which virtually give you two nights for the price of one as well as other benefits, are offered through the association by Singapore Airlines in conjunction with the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board. When one considers what would be charged to individuals buying these same holidays, it is clear that a sizeable saving goes into them. Presumably the tourist board and the airline, as well as the hotels, regard them in much the same way that a supermarket regards its "loss leaders"—inducements to customers whereby spending money then goes on to benefit the company.

My flight between Singapore and London gave me opportunity to sample the kind of service offered on long journeys to "passegers" (the travel trade lingo for those visiting friends and relatives). As Singapore Airlines is not a member of the International Air Transport Association that service on the jumbo jet had some pleasant touches. There was a choice of menu at mealtimes and a free bar service including wine with meals. The airline did not charge (as IATA members must) for the headsets through which one enjoys the service music programme as well as the film shown in flight.

Now all airlines, I know, do their best to make long flights as comfortable as possible, but I was certainly impressed with the extra touches of service given by the staff on that

journey. Since my article last November (and others touching on the subject of expensive air fares and the VFR passenger) there has been some talk of a special fare that may be introduced between Britain and Australia, although airlines tend to remain non-committal when asked about it. I do hope that such family reunion passengers are given a special fare, as in most cases they are of an older generation who cannot easily find the £500 or so per person for the round trip.

What concerns me, however, is the thought that such a fare would be offered only on a "straight through" basis with no facility to stop off at Singapore, Hongkong or any other location en route. I can understand that the airlines are anxious to fill their seats for the entire journey, but hope they will have consideration for such older passengers facing a total journey time of between 24 and 30 hours.

Though a direct comparison cannot easily be made, the VFR routes to Canada and the USA benefit from advance

purchase fare concessions and a similar system might be introduced with subsequent benefit to both passengers and airlines. The potential for such traffic is extremely high, as airline research has already shown, and clubs like ANZFA do a good job for the benefit of their members. The association reckons to have sent something like 3,000 of its members on round trips in 1976. This is just a part of the 18,000 to 20,000 people who make journeys as members of that and similar associations.

During 1976 British Airways launched two Family Reunion clubs of its own, and report a current healthy membership of all potential travellers.

The USA and Canada club had a total membership of 40,000 at the year end, having been launched in mid-September. The Australian club, set up in May, had a year-end membership of 26,000.

One of the things we discovered in our researches was that 18,000,000 people in Britain have relatives in the USA or Canada," a British Airways spokesman told me.

"In Scotland alone the figure is one in four people with relatives in Canada. Though the Australia figures are not quite as staggering they are on similar lines. The potential passengers are there, all right."

No disagreement on that. The reason that potential remains untapped must be the high cost of fares, for reunion journeys to Canada have dramatically increased in number since the advent of Advances Booking Charter and Advance Purchase Excursion fares. A spread of the ABC or Apex systems would surely increase VFR traffic to Australia and New Zealand.

Perhaps we shall move closer to that during 1977. Meanwhile, because so many readers asked for it following my November article, the address of ANZFA is New South Wales House, 66-72 The Strand, London, WC2. The association has nearly 60 local area clubs throughout the country. Information about the British Airways Family Reunion Clubs may be obtained from any travel agent.

John Carter

Good Food Guide

A year of too little haute

Is there a future in Britain for haute cuisine? The question is naturally prompted by last week's attempt to patch the hole in the nation's purse, and also, less directly, by the bout of unattractive eating and drinking which the Christmas week-end promises—for what does Christmas do but generalize at millions of dinner tables the consumption pattern that round the year allows the chief managers of expensive restaurants to get away with murder so long as there is cream in it?

Christmas, as it happens, is also the period at which the Good Food Guide winds up a year's restaurant research and sends a new edition to press. Its authors are therefore well placed at this season to reflect on the cuisine, whether haute or basse, that they have encountered in places where duty has lately obliged them to spend terrifying sums of money. Indeed, the spectacle of £10-£15-a-head London restaurants bursting with classless, cosmopolitan 30-year-olds strongly suggests that it is not lack of spending power which makes it so difficult in Britain to prepare or consume a dish or a meal that Escottier or Cur-nonsky would have recognized as superior. The London restaurant customer's poverty lies solely in his expectations.

True, the money may cry up in the end, leaving the grand restaurants and hotels to sustain themselves like camels until the good times return at what must now be the far end of the 1980s. Alternatively, we may develop, like the Soviet Union, a set of institutions catering in the grand manner solely for people spending foreign currency, with annual assurances of quality robustly delivered by Sir Alexander Glen, of the British Tourist Authority, umphing on the side of the home team.

But it is clear enough that money is not the obstacle to the more frequent appearance on British tables of cookery raised to the status of a fine or at least applied art. Contrary to what is vulgarly supposed, haute cuisine is not something that occurs de haut en bas, an aristocratic art that is meant to be passed down to the eating-out masses with the necessary substitutions of method and material. The high

priests and best practitioners of the style have always known that it begins and ends with the true tastes of simple things, which are then combined and recombined "with developing things" as the saying is. "Cooking is when you take a good thing and make it better," was a favourite saying of Cur-nonsky's, which resembles the parallel truth that at the core of Heifetz's pyrotechnics you hear the simple perfection of his scales.

In this sense, almost every expensive restaurant in Britain betrays itself not just by its predictable failure to deliver tour-de-force in a manner that would satisfy that gastronomically exacting composer, but by less forgivable omissions to put the best bread, the best butter and the best salt on tables in a country where these commodities are still cheaper than almost anywhere else in the developed world. (If only restaurant customers were as fussy as delegates to Geneva conferences, declining even to discuss the menu/agenda until ingredients and procedures had been detailed to their satisfaction.)

Theory of this kind demands requires one to pass over—or at least, not to attribute to their authors—some of the horrors that have been passed off as classical or familiar bourgeois recipes in test meals eaten on the Guide's behalf during the past year: the lapin mowardé whose dry bones the prophet Ezekiel would have had trouble reconstructing; the terrine aux crustacees et aux poissons which "looked like two slices of luncheon meat and tasted like different"; the chicken Rossini with "yucky timbale and a cuisine as it were—no might pick the plateau de fruits de mer (E4) at La Croisette's new offshoot Le Suquet (the word means a stew of fish, for which the French have many words, the British sadly few). There

were belons, praires, clovises, crevettes, a big crab with the dark meat firm and fudgy, whelks, winkles and a cork pierced with many pins, and a dollop of good thick mayonnaise. It is better to call it a day after the fish here, for though sauces and salads are good, the vegetables are grim and tarted des demoiselles. Tatin "would make the sisters turn rough-side-up in their graves".

Only the daily stimulus of fickle, demanding French customers irons out that kind of unevenness in a restaurant. It is a weakness of the Connaught Hotel that much of its clientele, James out of The Glistening Prize—is apt to take its haute cuisine with generous doses of cigar smoke and iced water. But Michel Bourdin is a master nevertheless, and his restaurant is competent too for nothing less could have produced on the table, at a correctly lukewarm temperature, his oeufs de caille Maintenon—four quail's eggs unerringly cooked mollet, sailing under a coating of lemony hollandaise in two crisp and buttery pastry baguettes that had been ballasted with duxelles.

Among main courses, the year produced in London alone at least a couple of consummate examples of cooking in its higher reaches: Le Gavroche's caneton poêlé Dominique (£5.30), made at a season when the condition of turnips forbade the house's usual duck speciality (how many restaurants are there that even notice the condition of turnips?); and Chez Nico's pousin à l'eau de vie de Moscat (£7.50 for two, by advance order).

A very serious eater cannot remember a better dish than this in any restaurant this side of the Channel, and it exemplifies one of the cardinal principles of haute cuisine: there are no short-cuts or halfway steps to success. If Nico Ladinis added too little or too much of the fragrant, lingering, apricot-and-parchment eau de vie de Moscat, or added it at the wrong stage, he would just have a very expensive pousin. As it is, he has a dish of the kind that turns up less often, these days, than mere new strings

us back at once to Christmas and the philosopher of taste himself. It is worth quoting Brillat-Savarin (in a democratic Penguin edition) on the conclusions to be drawn from Christmas packages like Mr Healey's:

"If we look into the matter closely, we find that the basic elements of our pleasures are difficulty, privation, and the desire for enjoyment. All these come together in the act of breaking abstinence, and I have seen two of my great-uncles, both serious, sober men, hallow with joy when they saw the first slice cut from a ham, or a plate disembowelled, on Easter Day. Now, degenerate once that we are, we could never stand up to such powerful sensations."

Details: Le Suquet, 104 Draycott Avenue, SW3, 01-581 1785. Connaught Hotel, Carlos Place, W1, 01-499 7070. Le Gavroche, 61 Lower Sloane Street, SW1, 01-730 2820. Chez Nico, 148 Lordship Lane, SE22, 01-693 6266.

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George Hutchinson

Could hopes of an oil bonanza turn into a North Sea bubble for Labour?

No election this year, says Mr Callaghan. Oh no? This is what he would have to believe and wish for himself, with understandable attachment to the office and privilege of office. But Mr Callaghan is not, and probably cannot become, the arbiter except in a nominal or technical sense. He is not in control of our affairs. Other forces are working their effect by day. It is not the titular head of government, but events themselves that determine the outcome.

To suggest that the Government is losing authority and respect is to express it mildly. Ministers are floundering even on a relatively simple and humdrum level of policy. Witness the shaming fiasco, a national disgrace, of the official holiday arrangements over Christmas and the New Year. Witness the bread shortage contrived by the middleclass and self-important Mr Rogers, who is charged with the protection of consumer interests.

Oil from the ocean is what the Government has to offer—as if that alone were guaranteed to transform the economy. Well, we shall see.

For my own part (and I am not alone in this, although I would be glad to be proved wrong), I fear that the prospec-

tive revenues may be grossly exaggerated, bearing in mind the uniquely heavy costs of extraction. The oil is undoubtedly there; whether it will turn out to be the source of our economic salvation is quite another thing.

If Mr Callaghan is relying on the North Sea (his dew constituency, so to speak), his confidence rests on uncertain foundations. To say so is not to disparage or denigrate the efforts—the will, the skill, the resourcefulness—of those who are engaged in this arduous and costly enterprise, but only to suggest that, however valuable the result, it will not in itself be enough to overcome our economic plight. Ministers, not least Mr Benn, invite us to think otherwise. I can see no reason to accept their judgment, if judgment is the word: delusion might be a better term, propaganda a more accurate name.

Whatever the reality (as we finally discover it), whatever the doubts (as they may trouble us now), one thing is certain: a degree of scepticism over the financial returns from North Sea oil can do us no harm. To live in expectation of a fortune still unsecured is often the path to disappointment if not ruin.

Not that the Labour leaders

—the present Government—are alone in their expectations. That polyglot party known as the Scottish Nationalists (a party of almost comical diversity in essential political outlook and conviction) contains a similar strand of heady optimism. Like the Tory Party, though, "oil optimism" is here combined with the pessimistic reflection or foreboding that Labour may survive to enjoy the benefits—the new bounty—of the North Sea, should they indeed materialize.

In my own estimation, it is very unwise to repose so many hopes in our surprising oil fields. It would be marvellous, of course, if they lived up to the popular expectation which the Government is encouraging. In output, they may do so. In overall advantage to the economy, they may not. It might be as well to recognize the latter possibility before we assume too much, put our feet up and wait for the bonanza. There may be no bonanza at all, but simply an addition to our industrial resources, greatly to be welcomed but not in itself decisive in terms of the national economy.

Yet again, and again in vain, I looked for the name of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, in the recent honours list. Of

course he already possesses the nobility of all awards; and with that he possesses the respect and admiration of countless thousands in this country and abroad. But his services during the war have been equalled—even surpassed—by his work in the intervening years. His Cheshire Foundation Homes for the disabled, of which there are 140 in 35 countries, are—and will remain—a monument to one of the finest spirits of his day and generation. By example, he puts most of us to shame. He is a truly heroic figure.

Why then has he not received—or been persuaded to accept—further recognition? True, no further honours could add to the lustre of his VC: we all walk humbly in the presence of a holder of the Victoria Cross (and a triple DSO). But his existing dignity ought surely to be augmented in recognition of his unexampled services since the war. Not, perhaps, by a life peerage (they are two a penny nowadays): the Garter would be more appropriate—and in jubilee year.

For my part (and in this I may speak for the country), I would like to see him designated Group Captain Sir Leonard Cheshire, VC, KG.

Not surprisingly, the sugges-

tion earlier this week that the Queen might appoint her husband Prince Consort has been dismissed by the Palace. Historically, that style and title has been pre-empted. It belonged peculiarly—and still belongs, so to speak—to Prince Albert.

I am indebted to Mr John Grigg for another thought, however. Mr Grigg is one of that elite corps, the Club of Ten (or is it the Straight Eight?—I forget the exact number). He is a member of the little band who have relinquished hereditary peerages in accordance with the provisions so helpfully enacted by Mr Harold Macmillan in 1963 in response to the exertions of Viscount Stansgate—that is to say Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who was determined not to remain a lord a day longer than he must.

Almost by definition, Mr Grigg is none too keen on titles. Nor is he actually advocating a new rank for Prince Philip. He thinks, nevertheless, that if something of the sort were contemplated in the era of sex equality, the Prince might suitably be accorded the title of King Regent. There are two precedents, as he put it to me the other day: King Philip, when married to Bloody

Mary, and King William, in partnership with the later Mary. Alternatively, Prince Philip might become King Consort, for which there is no precedent.

Like John Grigg, previously Lord Altrincham, I am advocating nothing. I merely record the ideas for your consideration.

What a good and timely proposal by Mr Marcus Fox, the MP for Shipley, who is a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party. He is calling upon the Government to apply a road toll to commercial vehicles entering the United Kingdom from the Continent. No doubt he has all those dreadful juggernauts in mind more than anything—the source of so much damage and dislocation in many an old English town and village.

As Mr Fox was saying: "If a haulier from my constituency, for instance, takes a truck to the South of Italy, he will have to pay something up to £300 in European road tolls. Yet Continental commercial vehicles can travel the length and breadth of Britain without paying a penny for the use of our roads. Ministers would be wise to support him and to act accordingly. If this costly intrusion cannot be stopped, it could at least be taxed."

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For Prince Andrew, deep freezes and hot maple syrup at Lakefield



Prince Andrew: bobsleigh runs and weekend teas.

Lakefield College School has suddenly been spotlighted by a roving beam of that "fierce light" which bears upon a "favourite" now that Prince Andrew has begun a two-term secondment from Gordonstoun to this comparable Canadian school.

Lakefield is a small village in Ontario, standing at the head of Lake Katchewanooka, one of the last links in the waterway chain of the Keweenaw Lakes joining Lake Huron and Georgian Bay in the north. For centuries this was the best canoe route for the wandering Indian tribes, and the footprints of the Algonquians, the Mohawks, the Iroquois and the Hurons have trod these ways, and their names linger on the maps of today. The lake is long and narrow, measuring some six miles by half a mile fringed in many places by swamp, and freckled by islands.

It was on wooded hillside close to this village nearly a century ago that a Mr Sparham Sheldrake decided to found a school for the boys in the district. His first prospective pupils:

"Mr Sheldrake desires to inform his friends and the public that on and after the 23rd day of April 1879, he will be prepared to receive into his home a limited number of young gentlemen for board and tuition. Mr Sheldrake will give his whole and undivided attention to their instruction in all the elementary branches of an English education, together with Latin, Greek and French if desired. Every possible attention will be paid to their domestic comfort and happiness. And a great deal of care will be taken to inculcate moral and gentlemanly behaviour. The Grove is situated in a most healthy and delightful locality with ample and well-shaded grounds for recreation. Pupils will receive all the advantages of home comforts combined with a sound and careful elementary education."

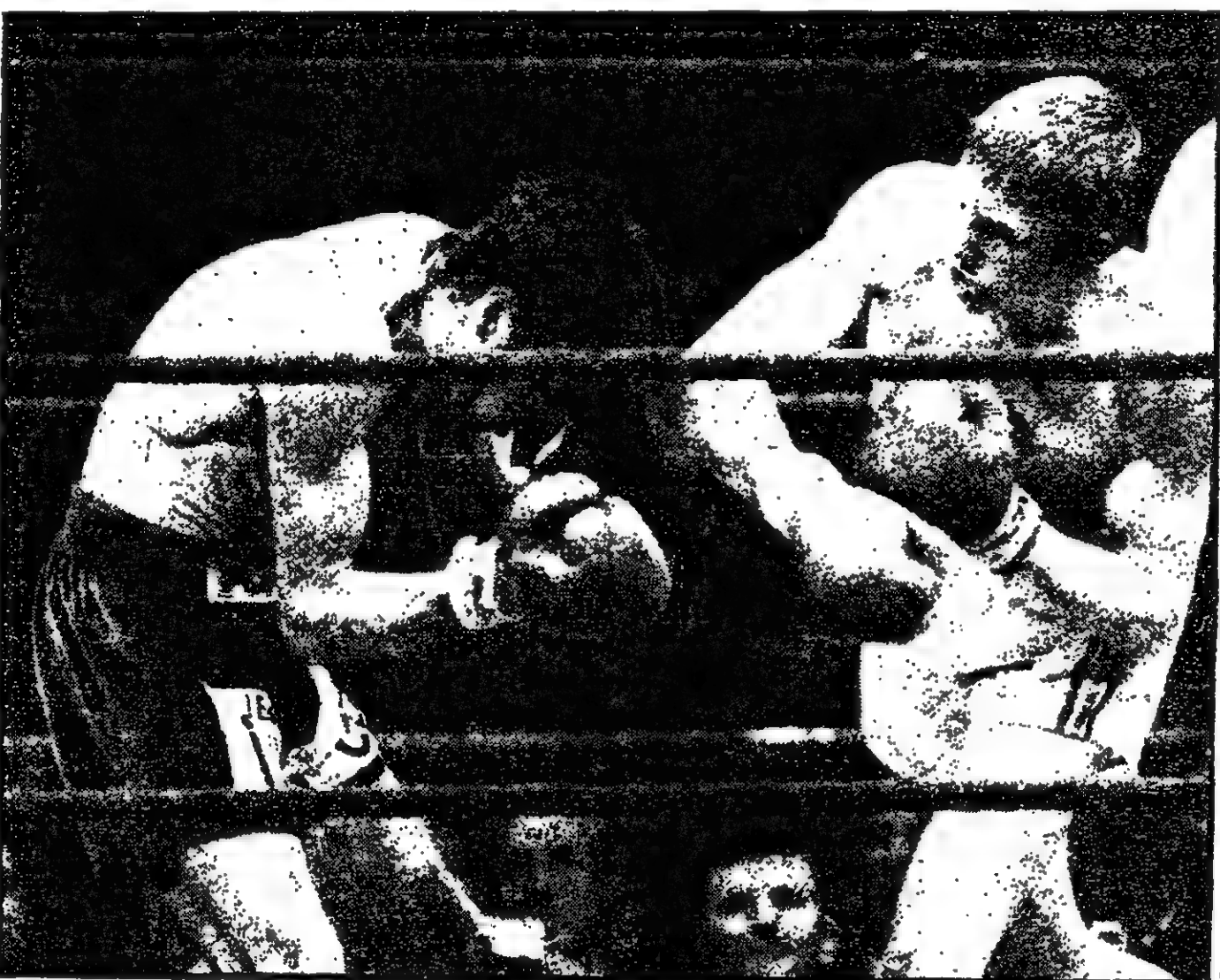
His home nestled into a grove of tall Canadian pine trees and for some 80 years The Grove School was the affectionate name known far and wide for what was subsequently to become Lakefield College School in 1965.

Sheldrake was headmaster for 16 years (and gives his name to one of the Houses of the present school) and was succeeded by the legendary Dr A. W. Mackenzie who was headmaster for a remarkable 43 years until 1939. The Reverend Alick Mackenzie was a man of God, a lover of nature and the wild places, and a sympathetic friend of generations of boys on whom he left his influence, boys who were to give leadership in peace and in war in Canada and beyond. "The Old Man" was loved by the boys. No wonder. On a crisp and clear winter morning when sharp frost followed thaw and the lake was a mirror of ice plunging under the winter sun, he would announce in chapel that there would be a whole holiday for skating up the lakes.

That the conditions were so sublime to waste in the classrooms! He transported the living up to his tag as the "Fen Tiger" by often wearing a tiger-skin patterned gown and cultivating an engaging hick image. He is determined not to follow the usual pattern of successful fighters "moving down to London, finding new digs, buying a flashy car, and being lonely".

Dave Green has everything going for him—a helpful environment, a level-headed personality, a sensitive and successful manager, and a large measure of boxing ability. With a bit of luck, it should all lead to a world title for one of the most popular British boxers of recent times.

Marcel Berlins



"Boy" Green (right): bringing back aggression to British rings.

Stracey is one weight division above Green, but that represents only seven pounds, the light-weight division limit being 10 stone and the welter 10 stone 7 pounds.

In fact, many astute observers believe that Green would be as good as unbeaten, fighting in the upper division. Although he has no weight problems at present, he is heavily built, and might find taking on the extra few pounds beneficial to his performance. At present, a Green-Stracey fight is unlikely for the near future because Stracey is still undecided about the resumption of his professional career.

Dave Green the man is too likely, apparently unspoiled and unaffected by his newly achieved national fame, the calls on his time and the temptations of the bright lights.

Born and brought up in the Cambridgeshire town of Chatteris, also the home of the great former British light-weight champion of the late 1930s and post-war period Eric "Boy" Boon, Dave Green (whose "Boy" tag is a deliberate homage) has no desire to leave it.

His family and friends live there (his father has a farm on which Dave used to work) and

he and his wife Kay have now bought a house in the town. When he retires from the fight game, he wants to run a business there, of a kind not yet decided on.

Inevitably, he has now become a folk-hero there, and receives huge support from the townspeople wherever he fights. When he won the European championship last month, a contingent of 4,000 fans from Chatteris and its environs made the journey to the Albert Hall to see the bout. Green, apart from his boxing skill, has the priceless ability to sell tickets.

He enjoys the identification with that part of the country,

living up to his tag as the "Fen Tiger" by often wearing a tiger-skin patterned gown and cultivating an engaging hick image. He is determined not to follow the usual pattern of successful fighters "moving down to London, finding new digs, buying a flashy car, and being lonely".

Dave Green has everything going for him—a helpful environment, a level-headed personality, a sensitive and successful manager, and a large measure of boxing ability. With a bit of luck, it should all lead to a world title for one of the most popular British boxers of recent times.

Marcel Berlins

Sportview

Can 'Boy' Green punch his way to a world title?

Last year was something of an *annus mirabilis* for Dave "Boy" Green. A promising prospect at the beginning of it, he is now, 12 fights later, the British and European light-welterweight title holder, and a fair bet for the world title during 1977. He is now the apex of phenomena in latter-day British boxing, a non-heavyweight who pulls the crowds.

In 1976, of our two world champions one, John Cooke, fought many opponents, but only one of them in the ring, and the other, John H. Stracey, managed ineffectually to lose his welterweight title to a clearly inferior fighter and has been sulking about it ever since.

Joe Bugner's stop-start career spluttered into life again, briefly, to allow him to lose back his British and European titles in a carefully orchestrated but scarcely credible struggle against Richard Dunn. Apart from "Boy" Green, only Maurice Hope and, a lesser extent Alan Minter showed world class.

Dave Green (no one in his family or among his close friends call him "Boy") is 23 and has been a professional fighter for barely two years, during which time he has had 22 bouts, all of which he has won, 18 of them inside the distance. He has already run with the longest unbeaten run by a British boxer, a record up to now held exclusively by heavyweight John L. Gardner.

A bold recital of the statistics, however, fails to do justice to Green. His appeal is founded on much more than the fact that he is a winner. He has brought back to British boxing an aggressive, exciting and dangerous style of fighting (significantly, his hero is Alan Rudkin) which is captivating to watch but which when practised by most boxers, leads to defeat.

Coming forward all the time, with scything swings, hooks and uppercuts, some of which seem

to start from the canvas, he disdains discretion in the interests of offence.

He is not, however, the wild man which some observers have billed him. He has, for instance, an unexpectedly refined, if not quite classical, style and a delectable, if not quite classical, sense of humour which has rarely allowed in any of his fights to be troubled by his opponents.

He is not a one-punch knockout artist, and most of the fights he has won inside the distance have been the result of remorseless, crowding, unceasing combinations of punches.

That has led to criticisms that he cannot pace a fight, and is wide open to counter-attack. He has only had to go 10 rounds twice, and in both cases so dominated the fight as to make the verdict unassailable. He has not yet been put to the proof of his stamina.

Green has also not yet met anyone among the top fighters in his division. He is now in the top 10 but has fought no one else in it. He has fought only two American-style fighters who would fully test the openness of his stance and will have to fight a few more before he can aspire to either version of the world title, held by either a Thai or a Puerto Rican, depending on which boxing authority is to be believed.

He benefits from the great advantage of being managed by Andy Smith (also Bugner's manager), who has the enviable facility of being able to inspire in the boxers under his control, total trust in his judgment.

Dave Green is quite willing to leave his future plans in Mr Smith's hands. "If he believes I'm ready for a particular fight, that's good enough for me," he says. He obviously is to fight for the world championship, but only if Andy Smith thinks it right.

More intriguingly attractive is the possibility of a fight with John Stracey, which would probably fill the biggest venue available in England.

Crossword Editor Edmund Akenhead offers some puzzling advice Did Humpty Dumpty have the right idea?

Next to the apparent indeclinability of the compound personal pronoun "you and I" (I was pained to hear the headmaster of a well-known London school using "you and I" as the objective case in a television discussion instead of "you and me") my pet aversion is the author who writes of clamour (or anything else) "rising to a crescendo" when he really means "rising in a crescendo" (excuse tautology) to a climax. Even that expression could be objected to by purists who, with the backing of the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, might point out that "climax" is taken from the Greek word meaning "ladder" and means an upward progression, and that its use in a "climax" is not correct. Pitfalls such as this surround the path of one whose business is words and who must therefore needs tread carefully. For instance a reader has pointed out to me that "dilation" which appeared in a recent crossword is not the correct noun formed from "dilate", although it appears in all dictionaries: strictly speaking the noun should be "dilatation" which will probably be news to many outside the medical profession—there is a paragraph on the subject in Fowler's *Modern English Usage*.

One of these days I may clue "glory" as "a nice knock-down argument", and am only deterred from this by the thought of the hundreds of letters I should be expected to

answer on the subject. When Humpty Dumpty used "glory" in this sense Alice objected that "glory" did not mean "a nice knock-down argument". Humpty Dumpty scornfully replied: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." and when Alice queried whether he could make words mean so many different things he replied the question is, which is to be master—that's all. The great British public will prove eventually to be master, as lexicographers will never agree, and most people will regard "climax" in the sense of "peak" and "dilation" meaning "enlargement" as accepted, and therefore correct, English usage. I mean, however, in my opposition to "rising to a crescendo".

With the 12 days of Christmas (and its "partridge in a pear-tree" which I have long suspected of having something to do with the French for "partridge" being "perdre", only just behind us, it behoves us now to contemplate the coming Crossword Credo, in the form of the eighth Cutty Sark Times National Crossword Championship—this could be yet another Guinness Book of Records?

The stages of the credo are (a) the one and only qualifying puzzle which will appear next Friday, January 14, with full details and conditions in previous years there have been

two qualifying puzzles but this year there will only be one, (b) the Eliminator puzzle (of which more anon) on February 10 for all venues for which more contestants have qualified than can be accommodated in the accommodation available, (c) the seven regional finals at York, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Chester, Bristol, London A and London B each involving four half-hour sessions with a crossword to be solved in each, dates ranging from March 20 to July 10—full details next Friday, and (d) the climax puzzle, which will be the final in London on September 4.

I should like here to present an apology, in the original sense of defence or justification, for the Eliminator system. Admittedly those entrants who adventure their £1 entry fees on the qualifying puzzle next Friday and who fail either through a mistake in that puzzle or through inability to make a sufficiently good showing in the Eliminator puzzle (in which solutions which are less than all-correct may well qualify—see below) will have lost their money, but those not prepared to endure this loss without complaint should not enter. In these days, £1 is little more than a nominal sum and the combined entrance fees go nowhere near meeting the considerable costs of organizing the Championship. I wish all crossword addicts a puzzlingly happy, even prosperous, New Year.

however one may define this type of refined mental torture) as for many crossword enthusiasts as possible at the different regional finals within the limits of the accommodation available. It is quite possible to achieve this with a qualifying puzzle so nicely contrived that the qualifiers will exactly fill all seven venues. If the puzzle is too difficult many competitors will be deterred and we should find some venues only half-filled. This year's one and only qualifying puzzle is designed to be neither particularly easy nor particularly difficult, and probably the two London venues will be oversubscribed—quite possibly other venues also.

The organization this year will ensure that competitors who submit an all-correct solution of the qualifying puzzle will be told individually through the post whether or not they will be required to attempt the Eliminator puzzle. The Eliminator has to be a more than usually difficult puzzle or it would fail to eliminate and everybody's time and effort would be wasted. On the other hand a competitor may well qualify even if he cannot complete his solution of the Eliminator, since it is only the least successful entries which will be eliminated.

Having thus, I hope, removed any suspicion of confidence trickery in what is intended merely as an enjoyable contest, I wish all crossword addicts a puzzlingly happy, even prosperous, New Year.

The long and the short of ski-slope fashion

Last winter I went into a London shop to buy a pair of the new breed of compact skis which I had been assured would prolong my skiing ability well into middle age. I left the shop sheepishly carrying a pair of skis emblazoned with the words "Fox Dog". On getting home I was dismayed to find them described in the catalogue as "for acrobatic and free-style mogul skiing". I wrote to the shop asking why a very non-acrobatic skier like myself had been sold such skis. A rather resentful manager rang up to say that he would not answer my letter but he could assure me that the skis were better for people like me than skis specifically designed for people like me.

If this was the case, I felt, something must have gone wrong with the lines of communication between the technicians who have now replaced mountain craftsmen as makers of skis and customers in search of easier ways of sliding down mountains. This indeed turned out to be at least partly the case.

In the past few years new technology has made it possible to produce shorter skis of metal and plastic which provide the support and performance of the long planks of old together with ease of turning previously associated only with skis too soft to grip well on tracks or at speed. The agonizing choice between hard skis (good grip, bad turn) and soft skis (good turn, bad grip) is therefore vanishing.

This has also influenced methods of teaching, which are coming out from under the influence of god-like creatures from the mountains who could not understand the problems of flabby, terrified mortals on a "Fox Dog's" holiday from an office desk. Teaching on short skis arrived first in America, where the Constitution supports the belief that people have a right to pursue happiness without suffering and danger. It was pioneered in Europe largely by the French resort of Les Arcs and is now slowly spreading. But until recently the aim was still to get people quickly onto skis well above head height. The new techniques of ski construction make this unnecessary. The shops and the racks of rental skis at Les Arcs are now filling up with new compact skis which, even at eye-level length, can satisfy most experts except those who want to travel at very high speeds. New models pour off the assembly lines each year, leaving last year's models obsolete. Worse still, manufacturers have been extraordinarily bad at providing information which goes much beyond the claim that each new model will turn by telepathy alone and is the most wonderful thing ever to have happened to skiing.

This seems at first less easily forgivable than ever before, since skis can now be designed with great precision. Yet this very precision in some ways adds to the problem. Individual

more crowded and more bumpy, and in America they are usually shorter than in Europe, so the young man's fancy turns to jumps, pirouettes, somersaults and other ways of expressing himself which delay arrival at the bottom, reduce the risk of high speed collisions and impress girl friends more than the bullet-like schuss to the bottom.

Acrobatics require short, flexible skis. They will be tougher and more torsion-resistant than for beginners, but otherwise they will be similar, which brings us back to the Hot Dog skis. They do indeed turn out to be very good for the ordinary recreational skier.

But if this makes skiing easier it has made buying skis more difficult. The customer now finds himself facing a vast assortment of skis of different lengths, widths, shapes and materials and an almost equal variety of salesmen who often seem as confused as he is. Their lot is not easy, of course. New models pour off the assembly lines each year, leaving last year's models obsolete. Worse still, manufacturers have been extraordinarily bad at providing information which goes much beyond the claim that each new model will turn by telepathy alone and is the most wonderful thing ever to have happened to skiing.

This seems at first less easily forgivable than ever before, since skis can now be designed with great precision. Yet this very precision in some ways adds to the problem. Individual

tailoring is easy, but the market customer comes every size, shape, level category and range of age. Americans say there are about 60 different ways of turning, so the manufacturer takes a stab at a broad target and hopes to attract young old, fat and thin, tall and short and slow. This means the customer who goes into shop and gives his age, weight and a boring description of how he can usually keep feet together but sometimes you know, when it gets a bit steep, more sort of, well, a little bit, is liable to vague and conflicting advice.

Descriptions more precise

This season things do seem to be sorting themselves out. Categories and such things are more precise. But don't let it fool you. A duffer or an age pensioner on a crocheting trip may have spent little more than necessary. He is going to find ski a great deal easier than before.

The most impartial advice to be had from the Ski Club Great Britain. The journal recently published a survey of new skis, and members can call on Major Forbes, a equipment Advisor, who listens to their problems like a kindly doctor and prescribes remedies from his vast art of samples.

Richard Da



Mr Jenkins could scarcely have asked for a more thorough initiation into the ways of the EEC than a 13-hour meeting ending in a somewhat awkward compromise. As is normal in the European Community, political considerations came between the problem of allocating the portfolios of the new European Commission, of which he is the first British President, and its ideal solution.

WINDSCALE, BELVOIR AND SUCH

A local planning inquiry, however, hardly seems a suitable context in which to deploy and test all the major considerations that must enter into a judgment of the projects of this magnitude. The essence of a local planning inquiry is to ask the question whether, place A, is suitable for development Y. But if development Y is the working of the deepest coalfield of recent discovery in western Europe, yielding every year 100 million tons of commercial fast-breeder reactor be, should it be sited on this windswept headland or on that industrialized and derelict estuary? Nor will they exclusively concern its safety and its cost. They will ask whether projected energy consumption (worldwide as well as national) and the expected depletion of fossil fuel resources will converge to make fission a necessary substitute, and if so when, or is the outlook so clouded as

The release of the Tyler family from their eight-month captivity by the Tigre secessionists is a happy conclusion to the long negotiations between the Foreign Office and the Foreign Office conducted through President Nimiery of the Sudan. An important factor, one may suspect, is the increasing influence that President Nimiery has with some of the many groups of rebels warring against the Provisional Military Government in Addis Ababa. Relations between the Dergue, now revamped as a government of a people's democracy, and Khartoum have deteriorated to the point at which ambassadors have been withdrawn.

The Archbishop's call

abandoned their own strongest
citadels, many giving over as utterly
outworn any belief in a living God,
a recognizable historical Jesus, life
after death, and an objective ethic.
For these we have substitutes which
the humanist can proclaim just as
well and with less confusion.

One does not need to be out of
touch with the times or dogmatic
to deplore this. Clear-sighted
humanists deplore it just as much.
When in addition the churches
resort to very questionable means
to preserve their own privileges and

The Commission must try to regain the initiative at a time when domestic difficulties impede cooperation. It must be seen to be a source of constructive ideas, and a promoter of joint action, not just joint action programmes. Matters calling for attention are the alleviation of unemployment, the controlled expansion of the stronger economies, a coherent energy policy, a less wasteful agriculture policy, and a fair fisheries policy. In addition, there is the serious problem of entry negotiations with Greece, and possibly soon with Portugal and Spain. The Commission cannot coerce the member states into common action. But it can help to make such action seem a matter of enlightened self-interest.

Under the planning Acts the minister has power to order a planning inquiry commission instead of a local inquiry if considerations of national or regional importance point to the need for something more high-powered and wide-ranging, or if unfamiliar technical or scientific aspects of the development seem to require a special form of inquiry. The device has never been used, and it would not be a good idea for the public examination of major energy projects since it would still preclude projects within the framework of town and country planning legislation, which is not the context of primary importance, relevant though it remains.

in Addis Ababa itself—the attacks and assassinations perpetrated by the rival Peoples Revolutionary Party, which claims that the Dergue is fascist, notwithstanding its agrarian reform and abolition of capitalism. Bloody reprisals and counter-reprisals have succeeded each other.

sted interests to which there is
longer any title, for example in
the universities, is it surprising that
they earn only the contempt of
detached observers? Dr Coggan
complained that there are too many
people around who know the right
to tolerate wrong. Ought we not to
rect this in the first place in the
churches themselves.

Yours faithfully,
D. LEWIS,
University of London King's College,
Grand, WC2
January 4.

From the Dean of Rochester

Many agnostic humanists turn their eyes to the weakness of the human nature and refuse to face the real situation, and regret much of this thinking seems to have seeped through into Socialism as it is expressed today. While the way to redemption—which is a long process—order must be maintained if freedom is not to disappear and the world be left at the mercy of the bullies. If and order are to be maintained coercion and restraint will be necessary.

We must be prepared to spend more on defence. Lord Chalfont says some time ago, quite rightly point out that there is not much sense in defending a demoralized and bankrupt society, but it is also likely having the best health service in the world if you cannot secure and defend it.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY BETTS, Bishop,
The Deanery,
Rochester,
Kent.
January 5.

From Mr G. A. Lewis

The average earnings included

the effects of the latest award, which is in excess of £53 a week, a figure which although still below average industrial earnings barely justifies the description "appalling pay rise" the statutory minimum allowed by the Government last week. These have been increased by a further £2.50 allowed by the Government's present incomes policy. In addition, the employers' side through the National Farmers' Union has agreed that all farm-based employees are fully aware that the present incomes policy enables them further increases to be given to workers earning above £50 a week. Further details are in the process of being agreed with the NUT and the unions together with table with managerial employees to calculate the supplements up to the maximum (£4 per week) permitted.

George A. Lewis, President of the Employers' Side of the Agricultural Wages Board, Agriculture House, 11, Whitehall, London, SW1.

from Mr C. S. Comport

BRITT: OMN: REGINA
translates as "Queen of the
Empire" and from 1952
BRITT: OMN: was
1953 was thus the only
of this coin type.
s, etc.
S. COMFORT,
sman, Essex Numismatic
society
lford,
rk Avenue,
tton,
sex.
uary 6.

*From Mr John P. Mackintosh, MP,
for Berwick and East Lothian
(Labour)*

Bridges' MPs know that Field-Marshal Carver (just retired) said of the previous cuts that they reduced British armed forces to below the safety level. They also know that the Government has taken steps to prevent a further reduction, a step unprecedented since the war of exercising a right of direct access to the Prime Minister to put their objections to these further cuts.

But the House of Commons is to be told by the Prime Minister next Wednesday without any knowledge of what they said. In every other major legislature in the Western world, there is a defence committee which would have summarised the views of all MPs on their objections and cross-examined them, so that the MPs would know what were the issues involved.

From the Editorial Director,
Burke's Review

Upon the packaging of the above-mentioned peagerages (or, inexpressibly, baronetries) have been created for twelve years, and it is indeed a crucial issue whether, say, an earldom is given to Captain Phillips on the birth of Princess Anne's first child, or whether in due course Prince Andrew is created Duke of York and Prince Edward Duke of Sussex (or whatever).
 Yours faithfully,
 HUGH
 MONTGOMERY-MASSINGBERD,
 Burke's Peerage Limited,
 56 Walton Street, SW3.
 January 6.

The proposed assemblies

From Mrs. Eileen Rose

Sir, In the original White Paper on devolution the Government put forward the suggestion that the assembly should have the power to raise revenue by imposing a 10 per cent surcharge on local rates. Somebody must then have told them that the rates burden here is already at a punitive level and dropping up. So that idea was hastily dropped. And we now have the curious situation that the greater the power must have less real financial resources than the present regional authorities. It will have to depend on block grants voted by Parliament unless somebody can think up something better.

In any situation power without responsibility is a recipe for disaster. The substance of this article is that the people will not tolerate absolutely anything when they will have to find the money. And, when they are thwarted because Western Ministers will not protect the small, the people will be driven to the perdition of the "London-based Government". The Nationalists will be the residual beneficiaries of this ill-conceived plan.

At this juncture, the next step is taken we might all usefully ponder the words of Herbert Spencer. He condemns the politician "into whose mind there enters no thought of the common good, momentum, or momentum." It will less of a political momentum which, instead of diminishing or remaining constant, increases. The theory on which he daily proceeds is that the pressure will stop where he intends

From Mr Max Morris

When, at their invitation, I addressed a recent seminar of the Conservative Graduates Association, which was preparing guidelines on this theme for Mrs Thatcher, I warned them that poverty remains the major cause of disadvantage. I pointed out that if a child's environment and social conditions were bad this could counteract, even nullify, all the efforts made to provide good schools.

In this context cuts in the Health Service with their effect on the family well being, must affect the welfare of children, both directly and indirectly. And just as important are school meals which, as is well known, are often the only balanced meals many children have in the day.

I have noted the seminar that even to charge the full economic cost (which must immediately reduce the number of children having meals), let alone abolish the service, would be to engage in an orgy of destruction, socially, that would have consequences in the future suggesting these measures would rue.

To say, as the Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Education Committee does, that it is a question of "meals or teachers" reveals an ap-

From Professor Sir Martin Ryle

FRS
Sir, It is a pity that Professor Rogers (December 20) did not read my article (December 14) more carefully before dismissing it so scornfully. Firstly, my reference to "a few more years" related explicitly to the exhaustion of *mineral resources*. If Professor Rogers hopes to save the world from suffering from the same standard of living as the inhabitants of the standard of living of the developed countries there more than cheap energy is needed, not only by population control, better planned agricultural policies, a reduction of our standard of living, and the most careful husbanding and more equitable distribution of all resources can we hope to maintain a stable situation. It is in this sense that the forecasts of energy needs must be examined.

Secondly, I pointed out that unlike the United Kingdom, "most industrial countries and the EEC seemed to be aware of the importance of investigating alternative energy resources. I pointed out that there was no reference to which countries were or were not developing nuclear power. We, in the United Kingdom, allocate less than 1 per cent of the energy research and development budget to nuclear energy programmes, and unless this increased, it is likely that we will get very far either in developing these alternatives or in assessing their overall cost in relation to that of a nuclear future.

But it seems particularly unfortunate that Professor Rogers should choose to base his review on the feasibility of alternative resources without apparently making any attempt to discover what has been achieved. He claims "that all modern experimental windmills of any size have blown down. As the size of the windmills has increased, windmills have failed - and these do not 'blow down'. The first, built in the United States in the early 1940s, operated for several years before a fatigue failure in a rotor blade; the second, in the Soviet Union in 1955 was taken out of service due to vibration problems.

There have, on the other hand, been a large number of successful experimental installations, many of which have supplied power over periods of several years to small settlements, grid substations and in Russia (100 kw), Germany (100 kw), Denmark (several, up to 2000 kw) and France (several, including 800 kw and 1,000 kw) have demonstrated convincingly that these small generating schemes of generating electricity from the wind can be solved, although at the time of these experiments (mostly 1955-65), the unit cost of electricity produced was about twice that of oil and coal-fired stations.

we have now moved into a different era, when fossil fuels are no longer cheap; the construction of a 2 Mw windmill in Denmark (now nearing completion) and plans for similar installations in the United States indicate that other countries are seriously examining the possibilities of renewable energy resources.

As Dr Tolba (*The Times*, December 16), has pointed out the relatively straightforward engineering involved in most of these systems makes them particularly attractive for producing power in developing countries, without the necessity for providing either nuclear physicists or armed guards for the indefinite future.

In reply to the letter from Dr Strub (December 31), I am sorry if his views were not correctly reflected in my article. I was not able to be present at the meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and had to rely on a newspaper report.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RYLE,
Department of Physics,
University of Cambridge,
Cavendish Laboratory,
Madingley Road,
Cambridge.

From the Master of Birkbeck

Sir M. E. R. Chamberlin (December 15) inquires of surviving Mechanics Institutes. The London Mechanics' Institution was inaugurated under the presidency of Dr George Birkbeck, on December 2, 1823. As Birkbeck College in the University of London it is now in its 154th session. Its curriculum has been changed, but it is as dedicated now as in 1823 to "the instruction of its members during the hours

...evening in the 'Principles' of the Arts they practise and in the 'useful branches of Science and the knowledge' Of its 2,600 students, 1,200 are working for first degrees and 1,400 for higher degrees; 87 per cent are part-time.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. TRESS,
Durkbeck College,
University of London,
151 Fleet Street, WC1.

* Other correspondents have written to report the continuing existence of Mechanics Institutes in Nottingham and Derby.

from Mr. Roy Plomley

Mr. Mr Bernard Levin's article on traces of missing characters in the last chapter is incomplete. Hamlet, there was undoubtedly Second Ghost, because Marcellus reports, in Act I, Scene 1, after seeing the dead King on the platform before the castle, "With Marshal talk hath he gone by our watch" although the second word is invariably printed with the aberrant spelling "marled" and the name without the "l" (last letter). Hamlet's Irish friend, there is also, there is addressed by him, in Act III, Scene 3 with the words, "Now I do it. Pat. now he is pray-

Both these parts, it may be assumed, were to be played by tappers who subsequently backed it.

Yours faithfully,
JOY PLOMLEY,
Deodar Road,
Putney, SW15.
December 24.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

Minimum lending rate cut again as £750m 'tap' is exhausted

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate was reduced by 1 percentage point to 14 per cent a few hours after the announcement that the latest Government long "tap" was exhausted. The £750m "tap", which was opened in late 1976, had been used to finance the Government's borrowing of £750m at 15 per cent, and was exhausted at the end of last week.

The move to 14 per cent was expected by market observers, but the timing was a surprise. The Bank of England's Monetary Committee had been expected to meet on Friday, but it was not until Saturday that the move was announced.

The move to 14 per cent was a response to the exhaustion of the £750m "tap". The Bank of England had been expected to announce a new "tap" of £750m at 15 per cent, but it was not until Saturday that the move was announced.

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GEC shares slip after decision on dividend

By Our Financial Staff

General Electric Company's shares fell sharply when the stock market opened yesterday because of disappointment that capital reorganization plans had not included a boost in the dividend.

But the shares ended the day only 4p down at 177p.

Elsewhere in the equity market, profit-taking trimmed 2.5 points from the FT ordinary share index, which closed at 365.3, though shares generally ended the day on a firm note.

Gilt-edged securities were again monopolized by the market, with the 10-year gilt selling at 14 per cent, and the 10-year gilt selling at 14 per cent.

The pressure on interest rates and the move to 14 per cent was a response to the exhaustion of the £750m "tap". The Bank of England had been expected to announce a new "tap" of £750m at 15 per cent, but it was not until Saturday that the move was announced.

Aramco partner's statement signals start of Opec production battle

Exxon switching to more Saudi oil

New York, Jan 7.—Exxon Corporation said today it intended to step up its use of Saudi Arabian oil in the western hemisphere.

The company said that during the first quarter of 1977 it planned to run five million barrels of Saudi Arabian heavy crude through its big Araba refinery, which has historically run almost exclusively on Venezuelan crude. The refinery processes 440,000 barrels a day.

Exxon, which has been a leading purchaser of Venezuelan oil, was also increasing its imports of fuel oil from "eastern hemisphere" sources during the first quarter, a spokesman said.

The company is one of the four owners of Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), which accounts for the bulk of Saudi Arabia's oil output.

Top officials of Exxon and the three other American companies—Mobil, Standard Oil of California, and Standard Oil of New York—have been meeting in Saudi Arabia to discuss the Saudi takeover of Aramco.

The Exxon statement appeared to signal the opening of the oil production battle. Saudi Arabia has pledged to hold prices below the 10 per cent increase effected by most of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Exxon declined to say whether it was acting on results or the Aramco meeting. It did say, however, "Exxon understands that Saudi Arabian crude oil production capabilities will steadily increase during 1977."

There have been estimates that Aramco, which produced at a rate of about nine million barrels a day in December, has the capability of increasing output to nearly 10 million barrels a day this quarter. Towards the end of the year production could approach 12 million barrels a day, if Saudi Arabia chooses.

The Exxon statement apparently was in response to reports earlier this week from Caracas, which said Venezuelan oil officials were claiming that buyers of oil, specifically Exxon, had accepted the 10 per cent Venezuelan price increase without complaint.

Exxon indicated that the price increases were less than had been reported earlier. According to its statement, the Venezuelan price rose by \$1.15 a barrel, or 9.6 per cent, for light crudes, and ranged from 7.5 cents and \$1.11 a barrel or 6.1 per cent to 9.8 per cent, for the heavier crudes and fuel oils.

"The company judges these prices to be competitive with alternate supplies currently available," Exxon said. The company, a major supplier to the United States east coast of residual fuel processed from Venezuelan crude, reiterated that it had raised prices for this fuel by an average of 7 per cent.

Oil Ministry sources in Kuwait said the country might be forced to cut its crude production by 38 per cent if foreign buyers insisted on reducing purchases.

"Kuwait can only comply with requests to cut down purchases by foreign buyers," the sources added.

They said the production cut would amount to about 700,000 barrels a day.

Earlier this week, the Oil Ministry said the present production rate was 1.8 million barrels a day, of which Gulf Oil and British Petroleum jointly bought back 950,000 barrels a day produced by them in Kuwait.

The ministry confirmed that certain buyers had asked to reduce their dependence on Kuwait oil after the price rise.

Strand chain takeover by THF is delayed

By Patricia Tisdall

Trust Houses Forte has met delays in completing its £27.6m acquisition of hotels in the J. Lyons & Company Strand chain.

The deal, which involves 35 hotels, was due to be signed on January 1, but has been held up for what are described as "technical reasons".

Meanwhile, discussions have been taking place with about 400 Strand staff whose jobs may be affected by the deal.

There is also considerable speculation about the future ownership of the J. Lyons hotels not included in the THF acquisition. These are the 825-room Tower Hotel at St Katherine's Dock, London, the 500-room Alpha in Amsterdam and the 170-room Commodore in Paris.

J. Lyons has not declared its long-term intentions for these, but it is known that a number of interested buyers have looked round the hotels. All three have been in trading difficulties during the past few years.

The largest, the Tower, built at a cost of £8m and opened in 1973, suffered from delays in the overall development of the dockland area as well as the general economic downturn.

This year, however, the steep rise in foreign tourist traffic to London has brought it into profit. The high occupancy rates are, according to Mr Brian Ridgway, its general manager, likely to continue well into 1977.

In Amsterdam the performance of the Alpha, 25 per cent owned by Royal Dutch Airlines, has also been disappointing, with losses of £300,000 in its first year. The Commodore, the most recent acquisition, "has yet to realize its potential" despite intensive modernization, according to the company.

Carter inflation measures are expected to concentrate on boost for employment

By Frank Vogel
Washington, Jan 7

Main emphasis of the inflationary measures being proposed by Mr Jimmy Carter, the president-elect, will be on specific programmes to stimulate employment, rather than a broad and general tax cut.

Senator Robert Byrd, the new majority leader of the United States Senate and Congressmen James O'Neill and John Dingell, led a delegation of Congressmen to see Mr Carter and his advisers today.

Mr Byrd said there would probably be a tax cut, but it was not the great emphasis will be on jobs.

Proposals are already before a Congress for \$6,000m (about £3,500m) of spending on state job programmes this year; but Senator Byrd said at this was still too low and he wanted to see new ending, especially on programmes that created job opportunities for the young.

Mr Bert Lance, the Budget director-designate, stated today that a general agreement on the economy needed a \$5,000m to \$20,000m boost.

He has, however, pointed out that great care must be taken to ensure that the measures do not greatly swell the federal budget deficit, which already stands at some \$51,000m for the current financial year.

According to informed sources, the measures are likely to include a temporary tax reduction for low income earners, and either a permanent or temporary tax cut for corporations.

They will need congressional approval, and will be considered in part alongside the proposals that President Ford and Mr Carter make for the 1978 fiscal year's budget, which takes effect on October 1.

President Ford will announce his last budget on January 17. Because of the complexity and size of the budget, the Ford proposals will have largely to be accepted by the incoming Carter Administration.

It is likely, however, that President Ford will attempt to include substantial increases in defence spending, above the levels that Mr Carter is likely to favour, and that he will once again seek to link tax cuts to reductions in social welfare spending.

Mr Lever for Meriden talks after plea for £1m state aid is refused

By Stephen Goodwin

Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Prime Minister's economic adviser, has become involved in discussions over the Government's rejection of a further £1m support for the Meriden motor cycle company.

He will be meeting Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr Geoffrey Robinson MP, a staunch supporter of the cooperative, at his Eaton Square, London home on Monday morning.

"With Lever you can talk hard, but you can't win," Mr Robinson said yesterday. "If the £1m was not forthcoming and Meriden was allowed to collapse it could cost the public purse more than £3m, he said.

The cooperative, set up in March, 1975, provides 700 jobs at its factory near Coventry and has been struggling since its inception, depend on it. Mr Bennett, then Secretary of State for Industry, authorized financial support of £4,200,000 and a loan of £750,000.

Since then financial thinking has hardened and earlier this week Mr Williams, Minister of State for Industry, refused Meriden's application for a further £1m.

The need for the money is twofold: to purchase industrial plant and to provide working capital.

NVT has been marketing the Meriden-built Triumph Bonneville and Tiger since March 1975 but this arrangement is due to expire in July this year.

Both parties believe the time is now ripe for the cooperative to assume full responsibility for its own affairs. Agreement was reached on the transfer of the rights and interests in Meriden's application for the £1m.

The cost will be about £500,000 to facilitate the transfer. NVT has offered to return this money to the Government in advance of redemption of its investment in NVT.

Both Mr Dennis Poore, chairman of NVT, and Mr Robinson pointed out that the net cost to the Government would therefore be only £500,000.

"I would have thought this would make it easy for the Government and that is why their decision not to support the cooperative is all the more surprising," Mr Poore said yesterday.

A planned meeting between leaders of the cooperative and Mr Williams in London yesterday was called off at the request of the cooperative. A spokesman for the Department of Industry said it had been postponed until Monday morning.



Mr Robinson, Mr Jones and Mr Lever: London talks.

Unions veto peace talks at Rubery

By Clifford Webb

Talks aimed at preventing the threatened closure of Rubery Owen's Darlington, Staffordshire, motor component plant were threatened last night by more industrial strife.

Senior stewards of the two largest unions—the Transport and General Workers and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—refused to take part in the talks scheduled for next Tuesday if members of the Electricians' Union were also present.

Relations have been strained since the electricians left the Rubery Owen joint shop stewards committee in 1973 and insisted on separate wage negotiations with management.

Mr Arnold Owens, the AUEW convenor at the plant, said last night: "We will not be sitting down with the electricians next Tuesday." They had benefited from wage increases negotiated by the other unions, but still wanted to remain independent.

Mr Douglas Peach, his opposite number for the TGWU, said: "The electricians are prepared to take everything they can get and give nothing."

The electricians ended a three-week strike only five days after intervention by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and national leaders of the three unions.

But Mr John Owen, managing director, gave warning that the future of the big plant was still on a knife-edge after nine months of almost continuous disputes. He said his earlier decision to guarantee a trouble-free year he would have to close the plant.

Lloyd's cover for lost \$3.5m tanker

American coast guards yesterday gave up virtually all hope of finding the 31,000-ton oil tanker, Grand Zenith, which disappeared in rough seas a week ago off the American east coast.

The tanker, owned through a subsidiary of the New York-based Sea King corporation, was bound from Trinidad to Massachusetts with a cargo of eight million gallons of heavy oil.

Registered in Panama, the tanker was built in 1953 by the American shipbuilding and steel company, Bethlehem Steel. The vessel's hull was insured for \$3.5m (about £2.1m) in London through Lloyd's.

Thomas Cook sells freight interests

The Thomas Cook group has sold its British freight operations to the Crosby House Group. The agreement is for the whole of the share and loan capital of Thomas Cook Freight, and is in line with Cook's decision to concentrate on its travel, banking, foreign exchange and travellers' cheques activities.

In brief

4,000 idle as Cammell yard stops

All production work in the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead, on Merseyside, came to a standstill last night when 4,000 workers were laid off indefinitely because of the continuing strike by 450 planters and shipwrights belonging to the Boilermakers' Society.

Only manual workers are affected and 900 employees will continue to work. Another 150 men are being kept on to carry out important safety duties in the yard but construction work on all 12 ships has stopped.

The stoppage by planters and shipwrights began on Tuesday. The workers had given the management 14 days' notice of their intention to strike.

They claim that the company has gone back on a deal made in 1975 by withdrawing special "flexibility" payments of £2 a week, but the company says the agreement was rejected by a meeting of boilermakers and before it could be renegotiated the Government's pay policy intervened.

Private house starts set for 155,000 target

A survey carried out by the Department of the Environment shows that private house-builders expect to start work on 155,000 houses and flats this year, the same as estimated in a survey last July. Thus while the industry remains heavily depressed, it appears that for private sector builders, at least, increases in mortgage rates at the end of last year and other unfavourable factors have failed to dampen expected demand.

OECD prices rose 0.5pc in November

Paris, Jan 7.—Consumer prices in member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development rose 0.5 per cent in November compared with 0.7 per cent in October, the OECD said today.

The yearly rise for November was 8.1 per cent, slightly up on the 8 per cent in October.

Inflation rates in Switzerland and Germany were nearly stable over the last half-year.

West Germany's economy grew 5.6pc last year

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Jan 7

West Germany's economy expanded by 5.6 per cent in real terms last year, more than making up for the 3.2 per cent fall in 1974, the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden reported today.

In nominal terms gross national product rose by 8.9 per cent to DM136,000m (£28,400m) after a 4.7 per cent rise in 1975.

The Statistics Office's report, which is provisional, put the average rise in the cost of living last year at 4.5 per cent compared with 6 per cent the year before.

Kuwait contract

Forster Wheeler Italiana said yesterday the Kuwait Oil Co had awarded it the turnkey contract for a 250,000-tonnes per year bitumen plant near Mina al-Ahmed. No financial details were disclosed.—Reuter.

2,800 laid off at Massey plant

More Massey-Ferguson workers were laid off yesterday, making 2,800 idle as a result of a strike at the company's Coventry tractor plant, which has cost more than £12m worth of production.

The 1,100 assembly workers on strike since December 22 have rejected an offer that, if they return to work, independent assessors will be introduced to check the fairness of new manning levels and piece-work targets.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Allen & Ross 10p to 380p	Bradford Prop 5p to 122p
Brit Sugar 10p to 295p	Costain R 6p to 144p
Boortfontein 10p to 210p	Gt Portland 8p to 210p
Hammerley 10p to 265p	Hawker Sidd 8p to 46p
Lever 1p to 8p	Leisure & Gen 3p to 25p
MIM Hldgs 6p to 225p	Luxor Ltd 6p to 211p
Minorco 14p to 184p	Mills A J 5p to 55p
Nitrate Explor 5p to 405p	Oil Exploration 6p to 101p
Smith W H A 7p to 348p	Premier Cons 1p to 84p
Stocks J 7p to 90p	Smith G 5p to 10p
Surmah Valley 5p to 20p	Tang Cons 6p to 154p
Swan Hunter 5p to 47p	Thom Electric 6p to 216p
Wagon T 13p to 70p	Welkom 5p to 155p
W Rand Cons 5p to 130p	Wipac H 6p to 106p

The Times index: 154.33—1.05

The FT index: 365.3—2.0

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia S 1.65	1.57
Austria Sch 30.00	28.00
Belgium Fr 64.00	61.00
Canada S 1.75	1.70
Denmark Kr 16.22	9.82
Finland Mk 6.60	6.35
France Fr 8.69	8.38
Germany Dm 4.19	9.96
Greece Dr 74.00	70.00
Hongkong S 8.30	7.85
Italy L 155.00	147.50
Japan Y 250.00	495.00
Netherlands Gld 3.60	4.12
Norway Kr 3.11	8.75
Portugal Esc 60.00	56.00
S Africa Rd 1.94	1.80
Spain Pes 118.50	112.00
Sweden Kr 7.36	7.42
Switzerland Fr 4.36	4.13
US \$ 1.75	1.70
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.00	32.00

Equities recovered from early profit taking. Gilt-edged securities went ahead strongly. Sterling gained 2 pps to \$1.7060. The "effective devaluation" rate was 43.8 per cent.

Gold gained 25 cents an ounce to \$137.675. SDRs rose 1.16211 on Friday, while SDR-E was 0.661829. Commodities: Coffee prices dropped sharply. Rubber's index was at 1574.1 (previous 1570.7). Reports pages 20 & 21

On other pages

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Where could you have done better?

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Unit trusts

Britannia shakes off the past

In the dying embers of the old year the Britannia Group rose like a phoenix from the ashes of the former Slater, Walker unit trust group.

After the Slater affair it was inevitable that the unit trust group, given a totally clean bill of health, in the report to Slater, Walker Securities, would wish to assume a new identity.

The new Britannia group has emerged relatively unscathed from what were, indeed, the traumatic events of 1976. The word, of course, is "relatively". For there have been repurchases of around £18m from worried unit holders—of which at least £6m the managers reckon can be directly attributed to the departure of Jim Slater. Elsewhere, on the private portfolio side of the group, its pension fund management activities suddenly ceased to grow.

All this coincided with difficulties of another kind. At the end of 1974 and in early 1975 the Slater unit trust group acquired the management of the Jessel and National unit trusts—making a grand group total of 44 funds. Not merely were the portfolios out of line with Slater thinking, but clearly many of the funds duplicated each other.

After some delay, for technical reasons, managing director Brian Banks and deputy chairman Jim Nichols were able to put together a merger programme—spanning most of 1976 and a little of this year—which has resulted in 44 unit trusts being reduced to a more manageable 23, all with restructured portfolios where appropriate.

So it really is a most revamped, much chastened group which has emerged as Britannia. And I am happy to report that it has weathered its past and is in fine fettle. "The morale is fantastically high," points out Nichols. "There is no excuse

for poor performance, this year," adds Banks. The only outstanding problem now facing the group is its negative outlook. The level of repurchases has dropped sharply in recent months and is now estimated to be below the industry average.

So will the public, and perhaps more important still, the professional advisers, give the new Britannia group the support it needs? The answer, I think, should be "Yes". In the first place, the market conditions are improving. In a resurgent equity market, unit sales are likely to follow suit.

Secondly, Britannia will be indulging in a heavy promotional campaign which will include not merely advertising but seminars and meetings with professional advisers such as insurance brokers.

Thirdly, the team at Britannia is well-versed and tested. There was no mass exodus during the troubles last year, and in fact the key people, Eric Farrell, deputy managing director and in charge of dealing, Mr Banks and Mr Nichols have been there since 1964, 1963 and 1963 respectively.

So it is a very stable outfit and well structured internally in respect of its investment research, management and completely independent dealing system.

And what about the range of funds? Well, with 23 of them, it is, as one might expect, a very comprehensive list which veers towards the specialist categories. No less than 12 of the total come under this heading.

Although every investor should be able to find something to appeal, specialist funds can also prove a mixed blessing. Their risk/reward ratios are higher than for a conventional fund, and it is very likely that Britannia will be nursing a bed

performer—like its Mineral and Gold funds last year which followed the gold share index downwards—as well as some good ones.

In overall terms, the group looks capable of providing a reliable investment record. Its investment management is done in-house and the team is experienced at fund management and unlike other outposts of the erstwhile Slater empire operated on the conventional lines of classic investment management rather than falling over backwards to accommodate new trends and styles.

Looking back at Britannia's record last year, which was clearly not the most auspicious of times for the group, it didn't do too badly at all. Its General and Growth funds were in the top 20 Medium funds and over three years, the Growth fund (based on the old Ivan fund figures) is up by 24 per cent, definitely one of the higher rankings of the period.

Again in the Growth category, the Capital Accumulator fund (the old SW Unit Trust) is showing a 25 per cent appreciation over the last three years and was fifteenth in the 1976 placings. The Income and Specialist tables also showed Britannia funds around this level, although there were a clutch of Britannia specialist funds, the banking and property funds, as well as the gold share funds, which hogged the bottom of the table.

All the funds are now fully invested and I asked both Mr Banks and Mr Nichols which of the 23 funds they would put their best friends in. There was no outright choice but both opted for the Income & Growth and North American funds. Banks then diverged into the Property and Financial Securities funds to complete his list while Nichols preferred the

The Britannia funds—or how 44 unit trusts became 23

S W Unit Trust	now	Capital Accumulator (£9.9m)
Nat Commercial Consolidated	now	Commercial & Industrial (£11.7m)
Nat Consolidated	now	Commodity Shares (£11.2m)
Nat Investors General	now	Domestic (£11.7m)
Nat Investors 2nd General	now	Extra Income (£7.5m)
Nat Unit "D"	now	Fair East (£0.6m)
Nat Hundred Securities	now	Financial Securities (from 1.2.77) (£12.0m)
Jessel Commodities Plus	now	Growth (£19.4m)
Jessel Plantations & General	now	Income & Growth (£8.9m)
Nat Domestic	now	International Growth (£7.5m)
Nat Shamrock	now	Unit Fund of Investment Trust Shares (£2.8m)
Nat Scottish	now	Universal Energy (from 1.4.77) (£4.4m)
Jessel Extra Income	now	
Jessel High Income	now	
Jessel Australian & General	now	
Nat Banking, Insurance & Financial	now	
Jessel City of London	now	
S.W. Inven	now	
Jessel Capital Growth	now	
Nat Century	now	
Nat Provident Investors	now	
Nat Security First	now	
Jessel Income	now	
S.W. High Income	now	
Jessel Global	now	
Jessel International Consumer	now	
Jessel Investment Trust Fund	now	
Nat Fund of Investment Trusts	now	
Nat Gas Industry & Power	now	
Jessel General	now	

UNCHANGED FUNDS

Assets (£4.8m)	New Issue (£1.8m)
Exempt (£0.3m)	North American (£0.8m)
Gold & General (£2.1m)	Professional (£3.4m)
Minerals (£1.7m)	Property (£3.4m)
National High Income (£18.2m)	Shield (£15.9m)
	Status Change (£1.2m)

Unit Fund of Investment Trust Shares

It will be interesting to monitor their choice, and equally interesting to see how the Britannia Group with its £150m of funds, as a whole prosper.

One new development which is certain to occur is the introduction of unit-linked policies through the old SW Insurance



Round-up

Target's challenge • Worldinvest

Over the years there has been a steady stream of unit trust group mergers and takeovers but very rarely the need for an outright rescue operation. But it does appear likely that had not the Target group assumed the management of the Coyne Growth Fund, as from January 1, that the fund would have been terminated and the proceeds of the liquidated portfolio, valued at £95,000 on an on-going basis, returned to the fund's 180 unit holders.

Although Coyne is a fairly insignificant fund, formed at the end of 1969 as a managed fund vehicle for the private clients of an investment counsellor, with an unimpaired performance record it would still have reflected badly upon the unit trust industry as a whole had it been terminated long before the expiry of its trust deed.

Target, whose chairman Tim Simon is the chairman of the Unit Trust Association, ultimately plans to merge the Coyne fund with one of its own, probably one with an international spread.

Bank of America International has entered the international offshore fund industry this week with the launch of its Worldinvest Income Fund. Originally designed for the bank's private clients, it was decided to launch the fund publicly instead.

The portfolio is expected to be international in spread too. The managers are considering Eurobonds, short-dated government bonds, short-dated German Treasury bills and international Canadian issues. There may even be some United Kingdom Treasury bills.

The shares are in bearer form and the minimum investment is \$5,000. The initial charge of 1 per cent is low for offshore funds. It is not available to United Kingdom residents.

Crossword solution

DEFERRED ASDA
E A I T A N E U
BUCKS SCANNED
T T I I K S I
LOAN INTEREST
B E G G D O
ASSUME LOAFER
R A P U S
CONTRIBUTORY
LOKALITE
ASPIREY OWING
Y A T N V G
SOYA TRUSTEES

The Investor's week Christmas crossword was not easy and no one had a fully correct solution. However, Mrs J. Robertson, of 29 Warwick Road, Ealing, with only one mistake, to receive the £5 book token prize.

Fixed interest investment

Floating rate issue fails to materialize

The Government Broker has been unloading his traditional fixed interest stock at such a rate that the year's deficit now appears to have been funded three months before its end. And what do we now hear? Why, last summer's rumours of a floating rate issue, all over again.

Then the suggestion was that, if investors could not be persuaded to part with their money in exchange for investments with a fixed interest rate—for fear that interest rates were set to rise and they would lose out on the deal—then they might be persuaded to part with it for investments with a floating interest rate, which would minimize the extent to which they would lose out in such an eventuality.

It isn't difficult to see where some of the impetus to the latest set of rumours at the end of last week came from. For GEC, the electrical giant whose brand, names include Hotpoint, English Electric, Osram and Marconi, conferred instant respectability on the idea on Thursday by announcing that it proposed to issue floating rate notes to its shareholders as a means of enabling them to benefit from its high cash flow and high cash balances.

The new notes, which are to be issued at par, will carry a rate of interest 1 per cent above the six-month London inter-bank rate (LIBOR)—that is, the rate at which the banks lend money between themselves. This rate is at present 13½ per cent, so that GEC's new notes are likely initially to be offering a return of 14½ per cent.

But initially is the key word: for the rate will be changed every six months in accordance with the London inter-bank rate then prevailing. So if interest rates go down in the six months from the date of issue, the notes' owners will find themselves receiving less in the way of income in the second six months than they were in the first.

And what happens to their capital value, when dealings start on the stock exchange in the middle of March? Well, because the rate of interest which they offer is to be adjusted to bring it back into line with the market every six months, at which point the notes themselves will again be standing at their par value, there isn't under normal circumstances

likely to be any sizable fluctuation in the price.

If, however, there are rapid and sharp changes in interest rates, of the kind saw back in the autumn, they will of course be reflected in the value of the notes.

Thus if interest rates are not what seems likely to sustained upwards course investment whose rate of return is due to rise at a specific is obviously going to be attractive than one whose is static; and prices can be expected to rise to reflect fact.

Conversely if, as at present, interest rates seem likely to (and minimum lending dropped by another quarter point to 14 per cent on Friday an investment which gives fixed high return is obviously a better bet than one on which the return will fall: as prices can be expected to decline.

Within that six month period, the price fluctuations are likely to be much less than on any fixed interest investment—except, perhaps, on a similar coupon (but nominal rate of interest).

That might suggest that floating rate investment is the perfect vehicle for the investor who doesn't rock deal much but who wants opportunity to sell in an agency without too much loss. Its suitability, however, depends upon the income of a small investor in question.

It is perfectly true that investing in a security which offers a floating rate of return will be better protected against inflation while interest rates are on the way up, than interest rate movements tend to precede movements in the rate of inflation.

But they also tend to underestimate them, and the result of an investment in floating rate notes could be that investor finds himself with income which rises ahead of the rate of inflation, but relatively small amount, tends to fall in anticipated inflation easing) while at themselves are still rising. That is not a desirable position for anyone who has watch the pennies. Far better to go, instead, for one of the high yielding investments in Treasury bonds. For example were still yielding 13½ per cent last week, with the option switch into a floating rate issue if rates show signs of rising again later on.

Adrienne Gleeson

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE

12.1%

ESTIMATED CURRENT GROSS YIELD

WITH PROSPECTS OF CAPITAL GROWTH

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Chieftain High Income Unit Trust aims to bring you immediate high income combined with prospects of good capital growth.

Over the years we shall seek to ensure that the income you receive grows. Furthermore, while a high income is the main purpose of the Trust, it is an historical fact that high income unit trusts have often been some of the best vehicles for capital growth.

The Trust's yield compares favourably with many fixed interest investments such as building societies. We believe that, in the long term, the potential for growth of both income and capital will give you a significantly better total return.

Although you can sell your units at any time, unit trusts should not be regarded as a short-term speculative investment, and we would like to emphasise that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

But purely as a matter of record, since the launch of the Trust on 6th September 1976, the offer price of units has increased by 13.6%. During this time, the F.T. Ordinary Share Index has risen by 4.5%.

WHY A UNIT TRUST?

The problem associated with stocks and shares for the individual investor is, of course, that he rarely has enough capital to spread his risk, and sufficient information to choose with confidence. This is particularly true for those seeking a high income.

But the beauty of a unit trust is that, through it, you invest in a wide portfolio of stocks and shares, which is managed for you by full-time professionals.

AN APPROPRIATELY TIMED INVESTMENT

The funds of Chieftain High Income Unit Trust will be invested in high yielding stocks and shares. A decision to invest now could prove particularly sensible, as share prices are still relatively low despite continuing evidence of some recovery in the U.K. economy.

With payments of the IMF loan to the U.K. to be phased over the next two years, the steady course set by the Government's recent budget is likely to be maintained for some time. The impact of North Sea oil should increasingly benefit our

balance of payments, which is forecast to show a healthy surplus from 1978 onwards.

The rate of inflation has come down over the past 12 months, and a form of pay policy now seems likely to hold for a third year.

One other major factor affecting the economy, and therefore share prices, is of course interest rates.

The recent budget should bring some stability to sterling, which could lead to a gradual reduction in interest rates. When they do fall it can only be to the benefit of the stock market, and so of Chieftain High Income Unit Trust.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Our policy is that by far the greater part of the Trust's funds will be invested in high yielding ordinary shares. Holdings of preference shares will not exceed 20%. More than this would, we believe, restrict opportunities for growth.

In order to minimise risk, the portfolio is spread over about 100 U.K. companies.

Our investment managers will monitor the progress of these companies very carefully and act accordingly. And here, curiously they will be helped by the fact that Chieftain High Income is a new trust, because this will enable them to be quicker and more flexible in their investment tactics especially when shares need to be sold. Very large holdings can be difficult to dispose of at a satisfactory price.

YOUR REASSURANCE

Chieftain's executive directors individually have an extensive record of outstanding unit trust management with some of the industry's most successful groups. If you wish to verify this independently, contact your financial adviser.

APPLICATION FORM

Fill in the coupon and send it now to: Chieftain Trust Managers Limited, 30, 31 Queen Street, London, EC4R 1BR.

I/We would like to buy Chieftain High Income Units to the value of £..... at 25 p.p.u.

(Minimum initial holding, £250)

I/We enclose a remittance, payable to Chieftain Trust Managers Limited.

Tick box:

☐ If you want maximum growth by automatic re-investment of net income.

☐ If you want to know how to buy Chieftain High Income Units on a regular monthly basis.

☐ If you would like details of our Share Exchange Plan.

The Trustee of Chieftain High Income Unit Trust is Midland Bank Trust Company.

The main duties of the Trustee are to hold the title to the Trust's investments, and to check that all purchases made by the Trust are in accordance with the Trust deed; to ensure that the income is distributed to the unit holders properly; and to approve advertising and literature.

TAX ADVANTAGES

You can sell your units on any normal working day at the prevailing bid price.

If you are a standard rate taxpayer, you will generally incur no tax liability when you come to sell.

If you are paying a higher rate of tax at the time of sale, you will be liable to Capital Gains Tax. But, even for the top-rate taxpayer, there is a maximum liability of only 12½% (as against the normal rate of 30%).

CLOSING DATE

Until 14th January 1977, units will be available at a fixed price of 28.4p each.

Fill in the coupon, or talk to your financial adviser without delay.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your application will not be acknowledged, but you will receive a certificate by 25th February.

The offer will close if the price of units should have risen by 2½%. After 14th January, units will be available at the daily quoted offer price and yield published in most newspapers.

Units can be sold back at the bid price on any working day. You will receive a cheque within seven days of receipt of your renounced certificate.

Chieftain High Income Units were first offered on 6th September 1976 at 25p each.

There is an initial management charge of 5% included in the price of units, and out of this the Managers will pay commission of 1½% to recognised professional advisers. There is also an annual charge of 2½% (plus VAT) which has been allowed for in the quoted yield.

Income is paid net of income tax, but this can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers.

Distributions and a report on the fund are made half-yearly on 31st May and 30th November. This offer is not applicable to Eire.

The Managers of the Trust are Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd., 30-31 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BR. Telephone: 01-248 2932.

The Directors of Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd. are P. L. Potts B.A. (Chairman); R. J. D. Eats M.A., M.B.A.; J. D. Gillett B.Sc.; I. H. A. Hazeel F.C.I.S.; A. L. F. Tod.



CHIEFTAIN

TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED

I/We declare that I/we are over 18 and not resident outside the U.K. or Scheduled Territories and that I/we are not acquiring the units as nominees of any person(s) resident outside the U.K. or Scheduled Territories. (If you are unable to sign the declaration it should be signed and your application lodged through an authorised intermediary.)

SIGNATURE(S) AND ADDRESS

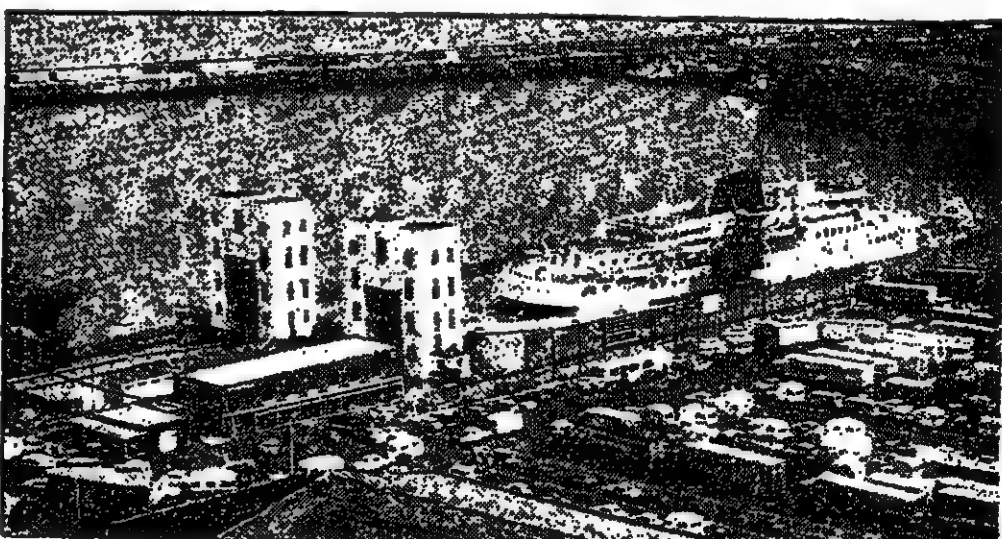
FIRST NAME(S) IN FULL

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE(S)

(If there are joint applicants all must sign and attach names and addresses separately) (Regd office as above. Regd No. 701181/H)

Motor insurance



Car ferry terminal at Dover: travellers armed with a green card have the best proof insurance cover.

Taking your car abroad?

If, despite the cost, you are planning to take your car to the Continent next year, it is easy to think that, from the insurance point of view, nothing is needed except a package "top up" policy from, say, one of the motoring organizations or direct from a company which specializes in this field.

After all, on the strength of your United Kingdom motor policy, you can take the car to many countries on the Continent without breaking any laws or being required to buy insurance at the border before being allowed to enter a country.

Unfortunately, it all sounds better than it is in reality. British motor insurers are not really giving anything away by incorporating cover for use in many Continental countries—as they are required to do by law. This is because policies only cover the bare minimum required by law in the various countries on the Continent—and the cost (in premium terms) of that cover, almost certainly, is appreciably less than the full cover which would be enjoyed under the policy in this country if the car was not taken to the Continent.

Hardly anybody in this country has the bare minimum of cover required by the Road Traffic Act—unless, perhaps, their past experience has been so poor that no insurer is prepared to give cover on wider

terms. At the very least, it is usual to have full third party cover. It is equally unwise to take the car to the Continent with no more insurance than the legal minimum—which, incidentally, varies between one country and another.

Much the best plan is to arrange with the insurers for full terms for the period during which the car will be on the Continent—for which an additional premium will have to be paid.

Although not strictly necessary for visiting many of the countries on the Continent, a green card will be issued—partly because it is the best proof of insurance cover in the event of an accident, and partly because a green card is acceptable in more countries than those where a United Kingdom policy automatically gives the cover required by law.

Normally, when you extend a motor policy automatically it gives cover for a sea transit scheduled to take not more than 65 hours. If you are planning a mini-cruise of some kind, with the benefit of the car at the other end, and which will take longer than that, you should advise your insurers when applying for the policy to be extended.

Your insurers may issue you with a European Accident Statement when you tell them you will be taking the car to

the Continent. The idea (which is widely accepted on the Continent) is that, if you are involved in a collision with another motorist on the Continent, both you and the other motorist can refer to the form at the time of an accident—those facts on which you agree. This, by the way, does not count as an admission of liability—which, of course, you are never supposed to make.

The British translation of the form follows the same form and order of questions as the Continental version, and there should not be any great problem in completing the form—even if you and the motorist whom you collide have difficulty in conversing. The chances are that he will be a foreigner in his language.

Completing the form is compulsory, but insurers' "policy holders" to complete it and to let them know it at the same time as a completed claim form or a report form.

At some stage, these forms may be adopted more widely in this country. The General Accident has experimented—issuing them to policyholders in selected areas, but the it is unlikely to catch on in most of the major insurers introduce them—so some reluctant to do so on grounds of cost.

John Drummer

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. § Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 25

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

هكذا من الأصل

Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

West Country

The Old Vicarage Country Hotel

CHURCH END, FRAMPTON-ON-AVERN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

George Hotel

Castle Cary, Somerset

Feeling Jaded? Enjoy a relaxing holiday in a beautiful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

Idyllic Luxury Gamblers Cottage

ON PRIVATE ESTATE

A very large detached house with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

AWAY FROM IT ALL

Character stone cottage and 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

NCUAGES? MUSIC? ACE? RAMBLING?

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

IFLAND PENINSULA

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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TH CORNWALL

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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WALL

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HORSINGTON HOUSE HOTEL

Templecombe, Somerset

Luxurious country house in peaceful rural setting—central area of most early English history. Please Tel: 09537 721.

SLIP AWAY ANY DAY

At the edge of the Cotswolds, a beautiful country house with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Give your children the thrill of an adventure holiday in a beautiful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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LEE BAY HOTEL

LEE, N. DEVON

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

ADVENTURE FOR CHILDREN

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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THE BAY HOTEL

The only hotel on the sea-front at Lyme Regis, Dorset. A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

MARKS TEY HOTEL

MARKS TEY, COLCHESTER

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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THE 17TH CENTURY

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

CATSWORTH HOTEL

CATSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

LICENSED RESTAURANT

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

TO ADVERTISE YOUR HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Ring 01-837 3311

BOURNEMOUTH'S 3 STAR GROUP

HEATHLANDS HOTEL, Bournemouth

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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COMFORT AND SERVICE ARE THE LAST WORD

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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QUEEN'S HOTEL

SOUTHEAST LONDON

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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THE BAY HOTEL

The only hotel on the sea-front at Lyme Regis, Dorset. A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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CULAG HOTEL

Built early 17th century as a summer residence for the Duke of Sutherland, a delightful hotel in an idyllic setting on the shore of Lochaber Bay.

Tel: Lochinver (05714) 209

ISLE OF SKYE

Comfortable small, secluded country house with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

ON THE SHORES OF LOCH DUICH

A cottage to let in Water Ross, 2 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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Wales

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

S.A.E. for brochure

BANFF

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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ST. DAVIDS

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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AMHERST HOTEL

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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DELIGHTFUL MEDIEVAL COTTAGE

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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ARNDAMCHURCH

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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LODGE SWISS HOTEL

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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Boat Hire and Cruising

Slow down and relax on a narrow boat holiday. A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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NGLO-WELSH NARROW BOATS

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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COME BOATING WITH ROSEMONS

A beautiful country hotel in a peaceful setting with 12 bedrooms, 10 en-suite, and a large garden. Ideal for families and groups.

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